

QVAREIA - THE APPRENTICE

Module 7 - Elements as Tools

Lesson 1: Time and the Elements

QVAREIA

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.

Josephine McCarthy



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Module 7 - Elements as Tools Lesson 1: Time and the Elements

Introduction to Module Seven

Although module seven was originally going to be about the Inner Temples, it became clear as I was writing the last module that at this stage you need to work a bit more intensively with the elements, which in turn would build upon the last module.

So far you have learned about the root magical tools, about beings, places, etc, and you have begun to practise the basics of working with the elements, both in a simple alchemical way (water) and by simple communion with their deeper consciousness. Now it is time to expand upon those experiences and learn how to work with the elements directly in different ways so that you can apply these techniques in your magical practice.

In truth, the natural elements are the strongest magical tools you can work with in magic, as they have the full force of nature and creation within them, and in a balanced way. But as in all magic, you need to learn both ends of the spectrum in order to produce balanced magic that actually achieves something. As you go through your training, you will work with different and deeper layers of the elements. By the time you finish your adeptlevel training, you will have a full understanding of all octaves of the elements, both in nature and in magic.

In this module, we will look at the 'classical Western' four elements of air, fire, water, and earth. We will also look at time as an element. When you work with time, substance, and consciousness, you create a magical harmonic that is powerful and lasting.

The elements do not exist in clear individual units; rather they are all of each other, and each of the four elements can be reached and found in a single element. In magic we tend to organise them into clean, easy to understand single units in directions and with a list of colours and attributes—the usual trap for a magician. In truth, the elements are far more mutable and dynamic, and are a part of a much larger harmonic that includes lots of other forces and dynamics.

The separating out of the elements is a useful tool for apprentices, as is an understanding of the four-directional 'homes' of the elements. But as your learning progresses, you will begin to understand the subtleness and complexity of these forces and how they shift around, blend, and entwine with each other.

To begin this process, this lesson will look at the dynamic of time and how it relates to the elements, how it operates magically, and how we can work with it. Magic works in time and out of time, just as we do. As physical beings we live in a world of time, regardless of the fluidity and illusions that being within a pattern of time can bring. Magic manifests in the physical realm, and the physical realm has time, so we work within time.

This lesson is about the dynamics of time that I have found through my own magical work, so it is using my own vocabulary—something to keep in mind. I think it is better to stay away from theories, and just look at what magicians have actually found, worked with, and understood.

Time as an element

To start at the magical beginning of understanding time and the elements, we look at the elements in relation to time and how the dynamics of time have a natural home in the elemental magical directions. You have already started to work with this principle: east is time coming into form, south is the future, west is time moving out of form, and north is the past. In

the centre is the still point that has no time, where all the dynamics of time intersect.

This basic understanding comes into play in ritual and visionary work when we match a magical pattern to a dynamic of time in order for the magic to manifest itself in the physical realm, and for it to trigger dissolution from the physical realm into the inner realms. We will start to look at this from the known magical system of the directions, elements, and time. This is often worked with as a set dynamic in magic, but by the time you reach the end of this module you will realise just how complex the whole dynamic is.

Let us first revisit the directional pattern you have already learned. This will act as an anchor for the work which you can then build out from in this lesson.

East/Air

The element of air that flows from the east is also the element that works with the formation of time. The power that flows through the east—the power of uttering into existence—sets the stage for time to flow through a magical pattern. In the east, time has no past or future; rather it is *in the process of formation*—the use of the utterance, the power of the limiter, and the element of air come together to create a threshold which enables time to trigger into a pattern or substance. Magic takes advantage of this: the magician creates a magical pattern using the power of air (utterance, sigils, etc.) and the power of limitation (sword). These two powers create a vessel (pattern), and a lowering of energetic frequency (limiter) that together create a magical act that has time within its pattern.

As the pattern/magic is completed, it begins its journey into the south, where time becomes the future. East is the cooking pot that cooks a road that time can step onto. This road is a two-way street: it runs into both the future (south) and the past (north). Which way it goes depends on the pattern created and the focussed intent behind the pattern.

There is a simple action that the magician can use to direct the magic through the maze of time, and that is the direction of the pattern, along with the intention of placing the magic in the future via the still point in the centre. The still point is a pivot out of time that can be used to direct magic in a flow of time, usually into the future. We will look at this still point after we have looked at the directions.

South / Fire

Once the magical pattern is fully formed, it immediately becomes an 'action.' Magic always does something. In order for it to do something, it has to include the element of time. The magical pattern is the trigger, and time is the road/delivery service that the magic travels within in order to do its job. That time can be past or future. The south is the threshold for the future, and most magic is aimed at the future.

When we think of the future, we often think of years ahead. But in fact the future can be five minutes from now...or five million years from now. Any magic done to influence 'now' will fail miserably, as in essence there *is* no now; there is only future and past. So when the magic is aimed at the future, it switches its energetic directional flow to the south.

The power that flows through the south is the power of *energy* (fire) that fuels the future, and *direction* (wand or staff, chessboard). It is a direction that marries future time to a set event. But here it gets interesting. When the pattern moves to the south, the events the magic are meant to trigger do not simply become 'locked in time'; it is not quite so simple as that. The nearer to our time the magic is set to unfold, the more locked in to an event it becomes. The further into the future the magic is set to unfold, the more potential there is for a shifting and changing dynamic that can be complicated to predict. The magic will still unfold as it is supposed to, but its setting, placement, and outcome may be different from what was originally envisioned.

For example, a tightly constructed bit of conditional magic aimed at tomorrow will very likely go as planned. But a similarly constructed bit of magic aimed at next year will likely morph into variants of the same pattern. The further away the magic is aimed, the more possibility it has to shift and change its boundaries, as it will continuously intersect with various time patterns along the way.

This is one of the reasons that working magically in the south/wand can be so volatile and destructive. Once the wand is used, the pattern is locked like a missile, but most of the time the magician does not understand that the missile they are launching is aiming at a target that is moving in a complicated and varied way. The further away the target, the more likelihood for collateral damage...or missing the target altogether.

This need to use the power of the wand and the south is one of the major control issues in modern magic, and has been the destructive undoing of many a great magician—we have looked at this briefly in previous lessons. In order to avoid this issue, you are learning magic that creates a pattern, crosses it over the east threshold, and then releases it to beings who can work with time in a different way to us—we have bodies, they do not, which changes how time works for them. They know what needs doing, they know how to navigate the complicated road, and also how to navigate through the complexity of time and event to achieve a conclusion. Hopefully now you are starting to realise just how complex this can get.

West/Water

As soon as magic crosses into the south, it starts to slow down. Just like everything that releases onto the road of time, its speed starts to decline: death is inherently woven into the birth of everything, and from the perspective of time, this means that from the moment time connects with the magical pattern, the pattern begin to slow down.

Once something gets to a very slow, almost-stopped phase, then comes the point of decay and finally death. This is where the west comes in. Once the magic sent into the south has done its job and it has slowed right down, it starts moving towards the west threshold. In the west, we say that the pattern is still moving in time (passing into the past) because at this stage, even though the pattern is completed, it still has influence over the future. Think about how past events in your life still influence you: these are past events

that are in the west. They are fully formed and completed, yet still having an affect on your life and time.

As the event/pattern moves deeper into the magical west, its influence on the future fades until eventually it has no influence at all. Time stops moving into the 'future,' and the west is the terminal where time is turned to go into the past. When a magician needs to dismantle magical patterns, the magician works with the power of the west. Once the power/influence has completely finished, the pattern is broken up and passes into the north, which is the distant past.

North / Earth

The direction of north, stone, and the past; hence the direction of ancestors. The north is where all the composted magic (and everything else) is buried. When time moves over the magical threshold of the west it ceases its action in the future and begins to form in a way that we recognise as 'past.'

What we think of as 'past' in our lives is actually in the west. Those memories and events are still in their fully-formed state and still have influence: they are preparing to step into the north. It is only when a pattern of fate/time no longer has any influence at all that it finally passes into the north.

North is the home of the patterns which no longer have any action or influence in life: think of dinosaurs as an extreme example. True magical past means that the event no longer has any bearing on the future.

The Still Point

What we think of as 'now' or the present moment is actually the still point, a point out of time, however brief. There is no *real* present. When you start a ritual, you think you are working in the present; but in fact, the conclusion of the ritual and the release of the magic is the future. If you start the work at 7pm, the conclusion of the ritual is the future (9pm), and by the

time you reach 9pm, the trigger of the ritual is already in the past. You are constantly moving through time and you never stand still—that is, unless you work with the still point.

The still point is the most important aspect of time for a magician. The still point is a condition out of time, a point where there is no time, no movement, no substance, no sound, no light. We work with this magically as the void, a condition from which everything flows. It is the threshold of creation.

This still point manifests to us as the void, but it can also present in many other ways in magic, from a still point within the body to a still point right at the beginning of the creation process. Everything in creation works in octaves, and so too does the still point.

When we meditate in stillness, it takes our consciousness out of the flow of time briefly, and reminds our deeper spirit of the timeless state our soul was in before we plunged into physical manifestation and therefore time.

Everywhere within the constant flow of time, this still point exists: it is the polarity within time. Time is constantly flowing, and its opposing polarity is timelessness and stillness. In magic we utilise this still point in many different ways, as it is both a stabilising influence and also a doorway.

When magic is being brought into being, often the magician will flow the forming magic through the still point before releasing it to the future. When the magic has done its job, and has gone through the composting process, the broken-down pattern is then passed from the west into the still-point,, before it is finally released it into the distant past/north. You worked with a very simple form of this dynamic in your ritual lessons: you drew magical energy out of the east, passed it into the central flame (the still point), then took it to the south and released it into the future. When it was returning, you took it directly to the west (it is still fully formed and therefore bypasses the still point) where it was broken down. From there, you took the broken down pattern, passed it through the still point, and released it into the north/past.

The candle in the centre is an elemental anchor for the still point: every element, every living thing, has a still point within it. The still point (of which the void is an octave) is like a doorway through which consciousness can cross in order to engage or disengage with time.

Through this module, we will look at different ways of engaging the elements as tools in conjunction with time. If your mind works in linear ways, this work will help you understand that time is not a straight line from past to present to future; rather it is a complex highway where past and future often intersect. Before we get to these combinations, let's just have an overview of the future and past from a magical perspective, and how it is so relevant to magic.

Future

During the various lessons so far, we have talked a little bit about magic and the future, but now let's have a closer look at the subject, as most magic is aimed at the future.

Imagine the future as a highway before you. As it reaches further into the future, other roads present as branches off the main highway. The further into the future it goes, the more potential roads exist.

In terms of magic and fate, there are two main dynamics to think about. One is the time/fate dynamic where something is already formed and in operation. This could be something that is going to happen tomorrow, or something that is going to happen in ten years time; regardless of when its conclusion is reached in the future, the pattern that will drive that unfolding is already underway.

The second dynamic is where there is not a predetermined pattern for an event set in motion, and the magician seeks to create a new future pattern.

These two dynamics are very different from a magical perspective. The first one is the usual dynamic worked with in magic. The second is rarer, and more tricky in terms of achieving a successful conclusion. Let's have a look at a couple of examples to illustrate how these two dynamics operate in magic. Then we will look at the inherent pros and cons within these two dynamics.

EXAMPLE ONE

A magician has a young daughter living at home with him. A sexual predator is on the loose in the area where they live, and his child is a potential target. The magician first looks, via a reading, to see if their child is indeed at risk or whether she would be overlooked. The reading suggests that his daughter is indeed a target and is already being watched by the predator.

The magician uses magic to create a talisman for his child that will act as an 'invisibility' shield for her. The magician also puts into the talisman a direct connection with a guardian being who will inform him if his child is in any potential danger. This is a use of conditional magic to affect a current/near future situation.

The magician then opens all the gates and works ritually to pull through power, and forms it into a pattern that would trigger rebalancing/justice in the immediate area where his family live. The magician does not focus the power of rebalancing at the predator; rather it is an open-ended, unconditional act to bring whatever rebalancing is necessary to everyone and everything in a small area of the neighbourhood.

His young daughter is now protected, and the predator seems to miss the child every time he looks for her. When there were moments where the paths of predator and child would have intersected, the child was diverted, held up, or moved along so that their two paths did not intersect. During this time, as a result of the magical power of rebalancing being released out onto the street and surrounding area, things ripe for rebalancing were nudged to their conclusions.

A couple who had been struggling to stay together decided to divorce, a person who had been hanging onto an unhealthy job suddenly got fired, and an old lady at the end of the street finally died. In the midst of this, the predator was caught and arrested. As soon as the immediate danger was over, the magician took the talisman off the child and composted it. The unconditional magic of rebalancing, however, would carry on unfolding until it reached its own natural conclusion.

So let us have a look at this dynamic, the whys and hows. The use of the talisman on the child ensured that the child's and predator's paths did not fully intersect. Because it was a real possibility that showed in the reading, the magician effectively blocked the near future path of the child to stop that intersection, which in turn narrowed down the possibilities of fate: the magician diverted an already-in-motion path of events and effectively changed their short-term future potential.

Notice that the magician did no magic to affect the fate/life of the predator. Inexperienced magicians would have aimed directly at the predator to bind them up, which potentially would have caused all sorts of long-term problems for the magician. Instead, the magician focussed directly on his own family and his own responsibilities.

Similarly, the magic released for rebalancing was not focussed on the predator, but at everything in the immediate area around the magician's house. And the focus was *whatever was needed to bring rebalancing*. This action allows for the conclusion of fate paths already in motion without creating new fate patterns or interfering directly in any one person's fate. It simply nudges events to conclusion. By working this way, the magician avoids inadvertently forcing a whole new pattern of fate onto the predator, which in turn would have become a major energetic drag on the magician.

If it was not in the fate of the predator (and his victims) for the predator to be arrested, then the arrest would not have happened. But thankfully it was, and the magic nudged it to a more efficient conclusion—probably by wiping out all the parasites involved. This is magic used to do what is necessary, *and no more*. An inexperienced magician would have attacked the predator, which would have put them into a direct energetic relationship with him that could have lasted for years. It really is not necessary to do that.

Whenever you need to interfere with time/fate, it is wise to do what is absolutely necessary and no more. That way, you are dealing with what is on the road of time directly in front of you, and you are not getting tangled up in the more distant, intersecting paths of variable futures, which can get very messy.

If there is a serious need to interfere with a long-term future (usually such magic involves nations, groups, etc.) the same dynamic applies: only what is necessary is done, and a lot of the work will be unconditional, in that it is not aimed at a specific person or group, but at levelling the playing field through rebalance.

EXAMPLE TWO

Creating a whole new dynamic of a future event is a lot harder than many magicians think, simply because what they think of as a totally new created path, was something already coming into form anyway—this is where you get into the totally weird twists of time and event. It is rare for a magician to create a truly new future in something. Usually it happens when an adept or group of adepts are forming a new inner and outer temple.

When this sort of advanced work is done, it usually cannot be done with a single magical act. Rather it is created over a series of workings that in turn bring through new possibilities into the path of the future. By doing this, the magician or magicians also create, by proxy, whole new fate webs and patterns that can affect a population. Every effect that such a new pattern has on individual lives is potentially carried energetically by the magicians.

Adepts avoid taking such a burden as much as possible: they view the fate web patterns of the land, the people and nature in the territory where the new temple will be established, and then weave the new fate pattern (temple) as close in design as possible to the pre-existing fate pattern one upon the land. This is tough magic to work, but by making the effort, the adepts side-step most potential major problems that a new pattern on a land may cause.

When you introduce such a pattern as an outer and inner temple upon a land, it will change everything around it forever. It will affect the people, the land, even the weather. A properly constructed temple can bring harmony or destruction to a land. The way to ensure that you do not bring destruction is to ensure that the harmonic of the temple is matched to the harmonic fate of the land and the people.

Any long-term magic which creates a new future always needs to be matched to whatever it is going to be a part of. The ability to do this comes from a deep understanding of how time works magically, how fate patterns work, how the elements interact with time, how the still point is used in such a construction, and how much magic should be aimed conditionally and how much should be unconditional. As you can see, such work is very complicated, but the process of developing these skills lies in the foundation work of the apprentice.

So the example would look a bit like this. A group of adepts are requested by the inner contacts to create a whole new inner and outer temple that will stretch far into the future. The reason for the construction is to restore balance where humans have created imbalance. The temple will work to train new generations of magicians, and also hold a consistent working group of adepts who work in service.

The pattern of fate across the land is looked at, the fate of the nation is looked at, and then this pattern is used as a template for the creation of the new pattern of the temple.

Only the skeleton of the pattern is used: all fate has a foundational pattern that does not shift. But around that fixed structure, new branches come and go as fate weaves and shifts. Using only the skeleton ensures that the imbalances of the land and the nation are not accidentally copied into the pattern of the new temple. Once the two skeleton patterns are in harmony, the rest of the inner construct is built with unconditional powers, i.e. whatever is necessary for a balanced temple that will carry on into the distant future. If it is constructed with too much conditional magic, the construct is limited by the knowledge of the adepts. By working with whatever is needful, the beings that the adepts work with can use their further-reaching knowledge and understanding to ensure that the construct will indeed do its job properly, without causing problems for the land or the people.

This brings me to an aspect of time/magic/events that we have already touched on, but which we will have another brief look at: conditional versus unconditional magic.

Conditional or unconditional?

The whole issue of conditional versus unconditional magic is directly related to time/events/fates. When you work unconditional magic, it is to some extent conditional inasmuch as you are attempting to effect change. What essentially makes it unconditional is that you do not try to control *how* that change comes into being. This allows the magic, energy, and beings involved to do their job their own way, in harmony with the various twists and turns of future events that are already fixed points in the pattern. So you trig-

ger the change, but how that change expresses has an unconditional freedom. This frees the action from the limitations of your own limited knowledge of the dynamic complexities involved.

Conditional magic attempts to control *how* the change comes into effect. It is very useful for short-term actions, but less successful for longer-term actions. Conditional magic works best when it is performed to effect the immediate future.

Past

When we work magically with time, as you will now know, once a magical pattern has peaked and done its job, the magic is then composted into the west and finally laid to rest into the north. However, it is the *pattern itself* that is composted, not the situation it brought about.

If you think about magic and time not in terms of future and past, but in terms of *forming* and *fully formed*, it will give you a better grasp on this concept. While a pattern is still in formation, or is out in the world and affecting things, it is not set or locked. Once it reaches its peak and finishes its task, it becomes fully formed and set. It can still have an influence on the future as it goes through its slow breaking down, and as that breaking down begins, it slowly moves through the past until it is finally composted.

When you want to work magically in time, something still in formation can be adjusted (you can work on the future) but once it is fully formed and exteriorised, it cannot be changed; hence working magic in the past cannot change a situation, but it can change how that situation ripples on through time. So a past event cannot be changed, but its long-term effects can.

Let us look at this dynamic a bit more closely, so that you really understand what I am talking about, as this particular dynamic is not often worked with in magic and is poorly understood. As an adept, you will really need to understand this dynamic, as it will become part of your work practice.

A woman in the past, say a hundred years ago, had her children taken from her in a terrible, traumatic way. The woman was a natural empath, and had strong energetic links to her children. This amplified the trauma: she could feel them but not find them. Eventually she killed herself, and the trauma passed energetically to the children. When they grew up and had children, the deep energetic effect of the trauma that the mother suffered passed onto them, which affected how they raised their children: they were possessive, controlling, overprotective, and constantly sought to isolate their own children from anyone else. They had constant fears and nightmares that their children would be taken from them, and that behaviour began to spill down the generations.

This of course caused terrible problems for the succeeding generations of children, which in turn led to a lack of social skills, regular depressions, control issues, etc. In turn, this limited the consequent generations from achieving their full potential in life, and made for a highly dysfunctional family constantly plagued with fear of loss.

The magician first tried to deal with the deep emotive pattern in the present generation, but this had little effect, as the past was constantly reasserting itself and the emotive build-up would overwhelm any progress made.

So the magician, working in vision, stepped through the still point and travelled back through the generations until he found the point in time where the pattern locked itself in and was still generating energy. He found the woman just before she killed herself. She was distraught at the loss of her children, distraught that she would not be remembered by them, and that she would be reviled and hated: she knew the children were being told she was wicked and that they must forget her. This deep injury was more than she could bear, and as a natural empath, that deep injury was haemorrhaging from her to her children energetically, who in turn were distraught. This was the root of the dysfunction.

The magician stayed with her in vision and talked to her. She was still in life in her own time, and the magician worked in vision, stretched across time. He told her that her children would go on to have their own children, that she would be remembered, that her children would always love her, and that her descendants would go on to do great things. He told her that she could let go, that her children were safe and happy, and that her blood would carry her wisdom down the generations.

The magician stayed in vision with her as she fell to sleep and died. He continued to work in vision day after day for a week, going first to her at the

time of her death, then walking her through the first stages of death. He continued until one day, she was not there.

After that work, he kept a close eye on the current generation of her family, and over a couple of years noticed a subtle but profound shift in them. Fewer of them needed antidepressants, their attitude towards their children slowly began to normalise, and most importantly of all, a young family member had a child and displayed none of the dysfunction usual for that family between mother and child. The energetic link to the pattern had been severed, and the energetic event had been shifted from the west to the north for composting.

Essentially the family members had been energetically trapped in the formed pattern and were constantly reliving an event through various expressions. By changing the emotive energy at the root of the pattern, without actually trying to change the event, the magician freed up the generations from that formed pattern and allowed them to start forming their own new future patterns of life and behaviour, based around their own experiences, and not someone else's.

Hopefully through this example (which is a real one) you will begin to see that past events cannot be changed, but the ripple effects *can* be, which essentially changes the future. To create a healthy path into the future for the family, the magician had to work in the past, and work within the already-formed pattern. Physical events in the past cannot change, but energetic ones can in order to restore balance. You have already worked with this in an earlier module by going into your own past.

Working back and forth in time is truly complex, far more complex than is outlined in this lesson; but this gives you a starting point to work with, and a base of understanding.

There is no practical work for this lesson, as the element of time will be addressed in practical terms bit by bit in other lessons. However, it was necessary for you to have read this lesson to give you a background understanding that will enable you to make more sense of the rest of the lessons in this module.

As an apprentice, you will only work with your own immediate future. This is for a variety of reasons, some of which you need to think about seriously so that you are not tempted to dabble and get yourself in a mess. As you mature into a full, working adept, you will gain a far greater understanding of all the twists and turns of time magic, and will be less likely to blow yourself or someone else up when you attempt it.

The second reason why you will only work, at this stage of your training, with your own immediate future is that more expansive time magic takes a great deal of energy. It draws heavily on your own vital force, and to survive that sort of depletion you need a full inner working team to assist you, and also the knowledge of how to fully protect your own energies as you work.

Stretching into the past to work has the most immediate impact on the magician's energy, as they are stretching back to a fully-formed pattern: it is the stretch back and the action of shifting energies within a set pattern that puts a heavy and immediate short-term strain on the magician.

Reaching further into the future to affect change within a forming pattern has less immediate impact, but a much longer chronic drain on the energies of the magician. When you change a still-forming pattern, the magic draws on your energies and weaves them into the pattern to effect change. However long that change takes, it will continue over that time to draw on your vital force. A change in the short-term future takes minimal energy. But changes that are far reaching into the future create a massive pull on the magician involved.

Some magicians think there are ways to totally avoid such a drain, but those are theories and do not stand up to long-term scrutiny. I have yet to meet a magician who can work with long-term future patterns who has not paid an energetic price for such work—and I have been around for quite a while now, and worked with magicians from all over the world. Sometimes the sacrifice is worth it, and there are ways to share the load with other beings, but it is complex and does not get the magician off the hook. Rather it ensures that they have a good chance of *surviving* the impact.

This is why you will not learn to do time magic alone, which is true folly. You will learn to work with time in conjunction with the elements, with inner contacts, and with other beings. By starting slowly and working with your own immediate future, and then only for balance, you will begin to build inner muscle, technique, and connections, so that as you gain experience, you will also gain strength, contact, and precision in your work. That

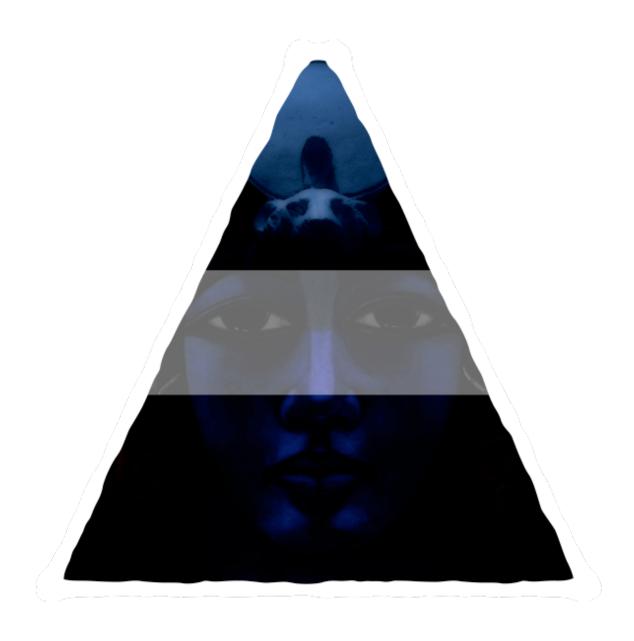
in turn will enable you to work in depth in time as an adept. You will still suffer some impact—that is unavoidable—but you will not take the full belt of energetic backlash, as it will be shared out across beings, elements, and substance.

So remember...

- pattern/event forming = future (fire, stars)
- pattern fully formed = past (earth, underworld)

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