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# QVAREIA - THE APPRENTICE

Module 9 - Working with Planetary Powers  
*Lesson 4: Mars and Venus*

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QVAREIA

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# WELCOME

*Welcome to this lesson of the Quareia curriculum.*

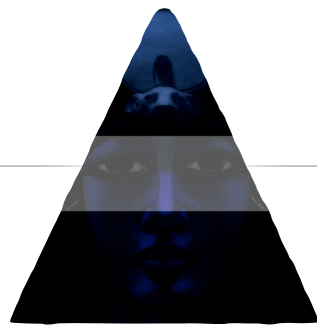
*The Quareia takes a magical apprentice from the beginning of magic to the level of adeptship and beyond. The course has no superfluous text; there is no dressing, no padding – everything is in its place and everything within the course has a good reason to be there.*

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[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*



# QVAREIA - THE APPRENTICE

## Module 9 - Working with Planetary Powers

### *Lesson 4: Mars and Venus*

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From a magical perspective, Mars and Venus are probably the most misunderstood planets in terms of their influence. In popular astrology, these planets are thought of as war versus love, male versus female, and so forth. Magicians must look more closely in order to connect with the influences that can affect our lives and work.

As you well know by now, everything works in layers and octaves in a very efficient way, and so too it is with the planets. You have learned about angelic powers like the limiter, the unraveller, the grindstone, and the threshing floor. These powers are also mirrored in the actions of the planets. In fact, when you come to learn in more depth about these powers, and the greater powers that lie behind them, you will eventually realise that such dynamics run through everything that is manifest.

Saturn and Pluto are deep, slow-acting powers that mirror the actions of the limiter and unraveller, which in turn are connected to the grindstone and the threshing floor. This connection flows through Mars and Venus, and as we go on, you will see how the two planets are part of this magical dynamic.

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## *Mars*

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In popular media, Mars is the planet of war and the giver of energy. This is sort of true, but doesn't really get below the surface of the power of this planet. Where Saturn limits, Mars gives a person the *energy to achieve within those limits*. In both men and women it is the power of testosterone, drive, fearlessness, and powerful focus: all these flow from the influence of Mars.

And Mars is closer to us, a faster-moving planet that has a more immediate effect on our lives. Mars is not the planet of the grindstone, but it is the planet that works *with* the grindstone; Mars dispenses energy, power, focus, and strength in order to achieve. It is the hand that holds the sword, but it is not the sword itself. Mars triggers its qualities within the magician regardless of their gender, and enables the magician to draw upon its influence in order to achieve.

In terms of gender, Mars' influence can become very strong in a man (testosterone upon testosterone). If this happens without awareness, it can create aggression that can flow out of control. For a woman it can strengthen her natural testosterone (yes, women have it too) and give her better access to energy, strength, and aggression.

Our current cultures do not place much emphasis on female warriors, but in the ancient world this was not out of the norm. Our understanding of gender and the powers that flow through gender has become very polarised: we see women as gentle and sexy, men as strong and virile. Nothing could be further from the truth. The variants and combinations of gender, hormones, and personality are complex indeed, and to work with the planets' influences to their full capacity, we need to be fully aware of who and what we are as individuals.

In magic, Mars is worked with to energise and propel magic. It gives strength to the hand that wields the limiter, and it counteracts the possibility of emotion seeping into the magic which could potentially be a disaster. Mars should be used with great caution in magic aimed at breaking down or destroying something, particularly if the magician is male, simply because it leaves the door open for aggression to flow into the destructive magic.

Sometimes destructive magic is necessary. When it is, it must be created and dispensed without emotion, without aggression. Emotion is energy that connects you into the pattern you are working on: it creates cords and threads that can trap you into the process you are trying to break down. Only an adept who has full control over their emotions and can apply silence to their work can work destructively with Mars without the usual kickback.

But in creative magic—magic that builds, protects, births, and develops something—Mars is an essential ally that can help you gain the energy to fuel the work, and supply the power to ensure its success.

Knowing yourself and how you function is the key to working with these close planets, as their influence is particularly immediate and can be very strong at times. By knowing yourself, and what you are like in tough situations, you will know whether or not it is a good idea to engage with Mars in a magical setting. If you are young, full of energy, full of testosterone, and have a temper, then working with Mars on magical projects—particularly defensive or destructive ones—would not be such a good idea. If, however, you are pretty placid, emotionally stable, have lower testosterone, and are pretty chilled, then including Mars in your magical work can give you more of an edge.

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## *Venus*

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This planet, like Mars, operates directly on your body and mind. Saturn and Pluto work on a person's much deeper aspects and from an inner sense; Mars and Venus both operate directly on a person's body.

We often think that a person's mind and emotions are not of the body's realm, but in fact all emotional and mental operations are the result of complex body chemistry. These two planets have direct influence over that body chemistry.

Whereas Mars is connected to the grindstone and limiter, giving power and energy to those two dynamics, so Venus is connected to the unraveller and the threshing floor. Venus can act as a guide to the scales and your harvest, or it can unravel you, depending on whether you understand its influence and work with it, or are swept along with it.

Venus is pleasure, beauty, harvest; but it also has the opposing power to the destructive potential in Mars. Where Mars can create spectacular destruction, the pull of Venus can cause someone or something to unravel.

In magical work, Venus' influence can enhance our sense of beauty in the magical form, which in effect gives us a feel-good factor which drives us on emotionally to succeed. Where Mars gives us energy to work, Venus gives us satisfaction, an emotional feedback that spurs us on to succeed. But if this influence is allowed to overtake a magician, they become lost in a sense of pleasure, a sense of entitlement, and a sense of overindulgence. This serves to gradually destroy the magician by slowly unravelling them.

When Mars and Venus work together in their influence, this can give magicians a major boost in the give/take, limit/unravel, energy/emotion department which can help them to achieve great things. But if that combined influence is not kept in check and worked with properly, or is allowed to influence the magician without their awareness and engagement, it is far more likely that they will develop a messiah complex along with arrogance, cruelty, and a penchant for wanton destruction out of egotistic actions. The planetary effects of these influences are fast, immediate and can be very powerful at times.

Think of Venus as the vessel that holds the harvest, the emotive side of both men and women, and the power of satisfaction of a job well done. We all have emotions; when they override our common sense, that is Venus unchecked. Emotions have their place, but they must be confined: emotions worked with properly can be powerful sources of energy and incentive, but out of control emotions are destructive.

The vessel contains these emotions so that they can be worked with to enhance something, not override it. And if you think the emotive quality of Venus is all feminine love and light, think again: *hell hath no fury like a woman scorned*. This saying holds true in so many ways.

Also, try to take a baby from a mother and you are likely to be faced by a raging lioness. This is another aspect of the power of Venus. But the more common negative aspect of this planet's influence is self-destruction through emotion or overindulgence.

For a magician, being aware of the influence of these two planets can be very valuable. If you have planned some powerful ritual work, these plan-

ets can be worked with in a number of ways. I have already mentioned the two hands that hold the sword and the vessel: the planetary influences work with the hands, not the tools or forces. They help and guide your hand, your choices, and your reactions. Also, when you look at the chart for a magical event, you can see where these two planets will exert their influence, and whether their alignments are potentially helpful or troublesome. In the latter case, you will know to use your hand wisely and not get carried away by the force or emotion of these planetary influences: you get a heads up in advance.

Working with the planetary spirits can also be of use in learning about these forces within you, and can help along the process of learning how to balance them within yourself and your work. If you have too much ‘fire’ in your system, or are very emotional, then working with aspects of the planetary spirits can teach you and help you modify such excess, so that you work in a more balanced way. You cannot change who you are, but you can become *aware* of who you are and how you react, and learn to discipline, modify, and channel your energies in a productive way.

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## *Practical work*

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### ***HALL OF THE PLANETARY SPIRITS***

Just as you did in your last lessons, take two trips to the Hall, one to meet the spirit of Mars and one to meet the spirit of Venus. When you have finished each session, recover the feeling of meeting each spirit and form a sigil that will be a connection between you and the spirit. Put the sigils onto round cloths, as you did in the other lessons.

### ***CHARTS***

The influences of these two spirits is shorter and more fleeting. Look at your natal chart and the house they were in at the time of your birth. This will tell you in what area of your life they will exert the strongest influence

over a lifetime. They assist the more powerful planets, and lend out their qualities in any given situation. Look at your current transits and see where these two are working, particularly around the time that you do your visits to the Hall to meet their spirits. Think about their current influence, the house they are giving power to, and how this translates to your magical work and your current life situation.

### ***RITUAL EXPERIMENT***

You are going to engage the spirit contacts in a simple way while doing some ritual work to strengthen and call in the powers of Ma'at to your life. Set up your ritual space, put your tools out, place the sigil cloths of Saturn, Pluto, and Jupiter in their current transit positions relative to your two-dimensional work space.

With a marker pen, draw the sigil of the Mars contact on the back of your left hand and the sigil of the Venus contact on the back of your right hand.

Instead of using the sword and the vessel, have those tools on their altars and use their sigils in the air for the ritual.

Do the Anchor ritual, then stand facing south with the central altar before you. Still yourself, and think about the powers of Mars to your left hand and the powers of Venus to your right hand. Think about the Limiter sword power, the vessel power of harvest, and the scales in the west.

Circle the directions, and go to the east altar. See the gates and the contacts, and place your left hand over your heart and your right hand up, palm facing east (so that the sigil is facing west).

Recite:

*“Powers of the east, deities, spirits, angels, powers of nature; I, (say your first name), wish to engage the powers of the directions, the powers of the planets, and the power of this land to learn to stand and live within the powers of balance, the powers of Ma'at. My left hand, my limiter, and my power of Mars will be watched and judged by my heart. I work to contain my power of Mars so that it will be used wisely. The Limiter (trace the sigil of the sword in the air with your*



*right hand) will contain my power of Mars, and the power of Mars in turn will strengthen the Limiter.”*

Bow, and go to the south. See the gates, and see the Noble One standing on the threshold. Hold both of your hands up to the south, palms facing the south.

Recite:

*“Noble One, my future path is open and unseen. I wish to walk that path in the power of Ma’at. My teachers are the Limiter and the Vessel, my companions are the spirits of the planets, and I keep the power of Mars and the power of Venus in due balance.”*

Stand and watch the Noble One. He will put up his hand in the limiter position (hand up, palm facing you), or a hand out in the vessel position (a cupped receiving hand), or he will put both hands out to you in a gesture of acceptance. Take note of what he does. Bow to him, and move on to the west.

Stand before the west altar, see the gates, and see the contacts beyond the threshold. Place your right hand over your heart and your left hand behind your back.

Recite:

*“Powers of the west, keepers of the vessel, and workers of the scales; my right hand of my deeds I place over my heart so that my heart will speak truthfully of my thoughts and actions. My left hand I place behind me, so that the limiter will not limit your capacity to see and listen to my truthful heart. I wish to walk the path of balance, the path of Ma’at; and may my actions form the road that I will walk into the future.”*

Open your right hand, and hold it out over the altar. Place your left hand under your right hand, so that your right hand is supported by the left hand. Recite:

*“The powers of Venus that flow through my life I keep in check with the Limiter. May the powers of Mars strengthen me, and the powers of Venus inspire me.”*

Bow to the contacts, and move to the north altar.

Stand before the north altar. See the gates, and see the ancestors beyond the gates. Place your hands upon the stone shield on the north altar, and position your hands so that the two planetary sigils can be clearly seen.

Recite:

*“Mother, Grandfathers, and Grandmothers; may I learn from your wisdoms and your mistakes. May you, as stars in the night sky, guide my hands, my thoughts, and my deeds. May the earth below my feet uphold my path into the future, a path that I walk in Ma’at.”*

Bow to the contacts and turn to the central altar.

Stand in the pentagram position with your arms outstretched to the sides.

Recite:

*“With Mars to strengthen me and the Limiter to guide and protect me; with Venus to inspire me and the vessel to nourish me, I walk the path of my fate with Saturn, Jupiter, and Pluto as my companions. May the gods look kindly upon me, and may my ancestors behind me lend me their wisdom as I walk this path of Ma’at.”*

Bow and sit down. Meditate for a short while: this will allow any messages to come through to you, or for you to sit in the power and silence. When you are ready, get up and go round the directions. Thank the contacts, close the gates, and put the lights out.

The hand signals given by the Noble One, the Sandalphon, are an important aspect of this ritual, as the Noble One is telling you what stage you are at in your training, and what it is you need to do next.

We are coming to the end of the apprentice training, and now is the time to tie up loose ends and attend to anything that needs more work before you move on to the Initiate training. The hand signals are not a judgement; rather they are advice. If the hand sign is raised in the position of the limiter (hand up, palm facing you), then there is still something in your life, body, or work that needs limiting, polishing, or giving boundaries. You must work out for yourself what that is. You can use divination to pinpoint it, but

first you must meditate upon it and identify the possible areas of your life that need that influence.

If the Noble One held out one open hand, this indicates the position of the vessel: there is an imbalance in your scales that needs attending to. Something needs to be let go of, brought to its conclusion, or weighed and released from your life in order to balance the scales.

If you owe something but are not in a true position to repay it, then let go of something, pass something on, or donate something to rebalance the scales. This is not about money, but energy.

So, for example, if you were helped more than you are helping, then give help to someone. If you have outstanding debts to someone (not a mortgage or anything like that) and you cannot pay them back or they are no longer around, then release something of equal energetic value to someone else in need. If you have too much of something (the influence of Venus, the clinging to what you love when it has no real purpose to you), then share it with others who need it rather than want it. If you are clinging to some emotion that no longer has a place with you, let it go.

If you are not sure what the Noble One is referring to, meditate upon it and ask for guidance. It will come in dreams or through an unexpected situation where you are given the opportunity to rebalance your scales.

It is important to take note of the angel's open hand: he is showing you that rebalance is needed somewhere in your life before you can step forward safely to the next stage of training. If you enter the next phase of training with unbalanced scales, the work will pummel you until you *do* rebalance.

If the angel held both hands out to you, then you are ready to move forward onto the path of the Initiate.

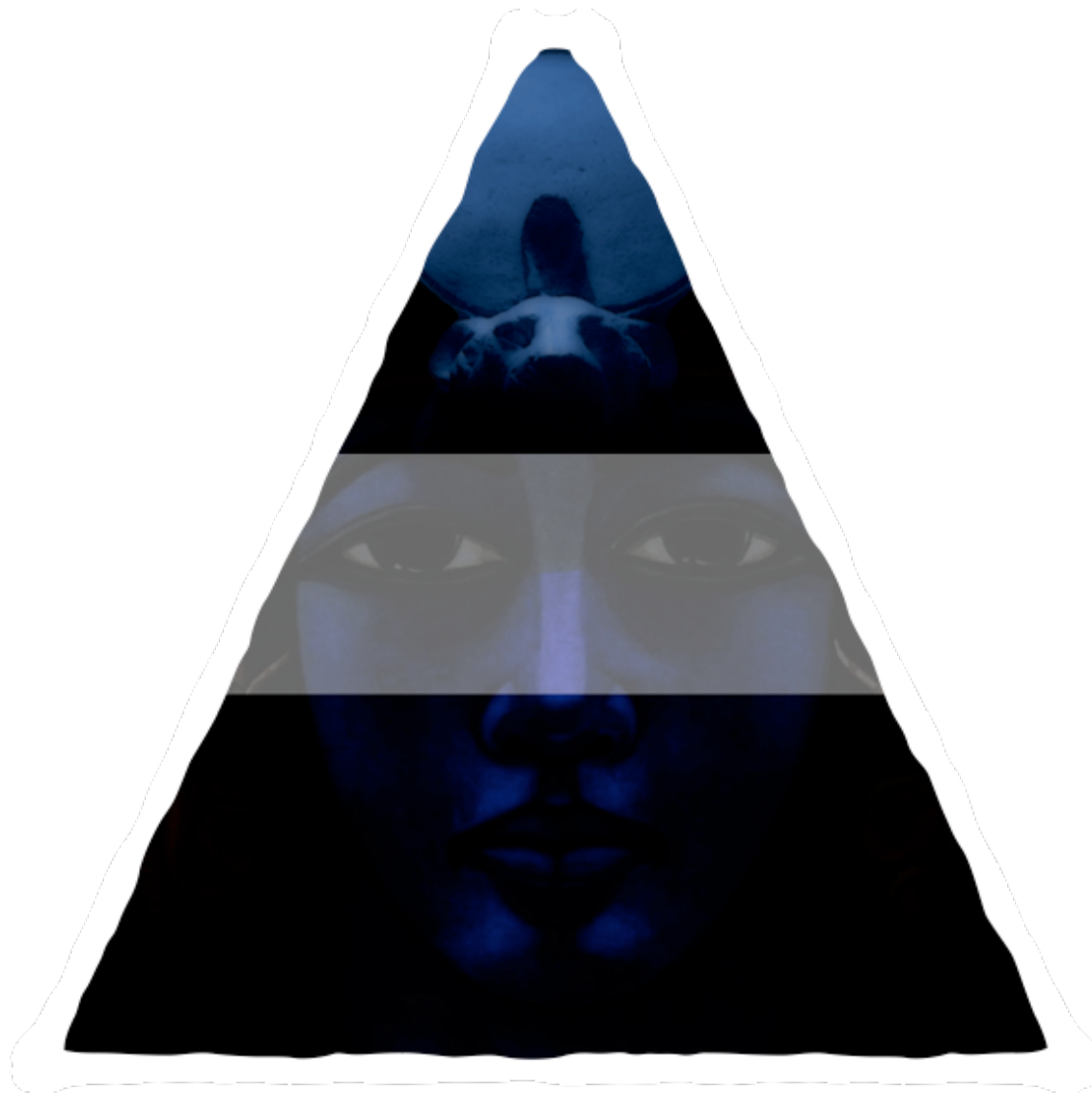
### ***TASK***

Write up your experience of this ritual, and also any dreams, events, and inspirations that come to you over the days after this ritual. Also think about how the sigils of these various planets can be worked with in your daily life and in your magical work. There are many different ways they can be applied, and it is up to you to discover them. Write this up in your computer log.

QVAREIA

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