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## QUAREIA—THE ADEPT

Module IV—The Arbatel and Planetary  
Magic

Lesson 7: Working with the Classical  
Planets

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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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## QUAREIA—THE ADEPT

### Module IV—The Arbatel and Planetary Magic

#### Lesson 7: Working with the Classical Planets

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There are lots of different ways of working with the seven classical planets, and the magic of each culture reflects a form of working that draws in the powers of the planets, and communion with the planetary spirits. This is a way to work with the planetary spirits that does not involve the kind of mess you can get into with such works as the Arbatel.

In this lesson we will work with a particular method for ritual connection and direct work for specific reasons with the powers of the planets and their spirits. This working is about looking at what is lacking, what is needful to the magician in terms of powers, resources, and dynamics, and how that deficit is either understood and accepted, or is remedied according to what is balanced.

Each planetary influence has a two sided set of dynamics to it, and the planetary spirits can be worked with to trigger one side or the other of a particular planets influence upon you as an individual. The key is being able to work with the flow of contact, and to be able to know yourself deeply enough in order to make the right decisions.

This working can be done with, a pair of planets, or all seven. Working with all seven may be a bit of overkill and may over stretch the magician,

and for the most part is not really necessary unless you wish to approach it that way in order to learn, or you are really stuck.

Once you have learned the working, you can use it when you get to a crossroads in life, or are hitting a wall in life, or you finding it difficult to move forward, or when you feel you are seriously lacking in some way and have no idea of how to forge forward. It can also be used in times of great difficulty in order to move things along, release things to bring things to conclusion. However, the working is woven in with the Three Fates, also known as the Three Mothers.

Working with the Three Fates in planetary work ensures that the interactions and results of that magic for the magician, is within the fate pattern of the magician and *does not over stretch their measure*. It keeps the work within the boundaries of your own possibility, and stops the work triggering a massive unbalanced swing in a destructive direction.

This work can also give deeper insights into your situation, as to why it is there, what is it doing, and if it is necessary for you to just suck it up and deal with it, or whether you can side step it and move forward. It is also a working that can be used as a stepping stone in deeper and more profound magical work. Working with the planetary spirits can also highlight for you any hidden weakness within you or your fate path, so that instead of trying to change the power around you, you change yourself. Every type of magical work has a positive and negative side, and the magician has to work in gnosis with that. The same is true of the planetary powers, so let us have a look at that.

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### *The two sides of the planetary powers and spirits*

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Each planetary power emits certain qualities that directly affect us as humans and magicians. The planetary spirits are both bridges and filters of that power and are beings that we can interact with in order to be the conductor to some extent of that influence, as well as coming to understand them better. These qualities each have positive and negative sides to them, as does every power in the universe.

The key to this is working with the spirits and influences to recognise what type of influence is being asserted at any one time, and to decide if it is something we can actively work with, transform, or simply recognise and use as a fate catalyst. The mistake a lot of magicians make is to only grab for the positive and suppress the negative influence, which can in turn

cause a backup of destructive power if we do not understand its purpose within our own fate weave.

If you understand a negative influence that is flowing from a planetary influence, you can choose to engage with that influence in your life in order to turn around a situation, or to strengthen yourself: the magician uses both sides of a power to develop and evolve, and to ensure they have the resources necessary to do that.

This brings you into the sphere of the planetary influences as a co-worker rather than as a victim or recipient. Such work can draw upon not only inner and ritual connection with the spirits, but also the astrology of the magician, and the divination of the magician, as you will see. First let us look at the seven classical 'planets' of which only five are actual planets, and the powers that flow from them in terms of the magician and magical work.

Bear in mind as you read this list, it is not that these are the actual influences that flow from the planets/bridges, rather these are the forms that the influence/power manifests in a human at ground level. The powers themselves that flow from the planets are 'frequencies', and how our bodies and minds translate them into action tend to manifest in particular ways through our bodies and psychology.

## **Saturn**

As you know, Saturn is the power of the Grindstone, and is the influence of the task master: a tough teacher. On the positive side, the influence of Saturn gives time and strength to a magician in order to evolve and mature. Saturn is the time keeper, the length of cord that is measured by the Fates, and is the power that puts us to work so that we actively join within the wider fate patterns of our species in order to evolve. Saturn is limitation, focus, boundaries, common sense, duty, discipline, and a power that dampens over creative powers, too much impulse, or overgrowth: he is the gardener.

The negative side of Saturn is overwhelming burden, long term sickness, stupidity, no boundaries it is a power that allows overgrowth, no focus, no service and total selfishness.

If the magician is fully engaging in something that is within their fate pattern, that needs to happen, and that involves more than the magician themselves, the power of Saturn gets right up behind you and helps you pull on your own innate qualities while also strengthening them in order to bring successful completion.

If the magician is not engaging with what they are supposed to be doing, the power of Saturn will lean upon the negative qualities within you, strengthening them in order to bring them to light so that you can recognise them. Once you recognise the failings within you or whatever it is you are doing, and you take steps to remedy those weaknesses, the power of Saturn flips as soon as it is right to do so, in order to facilitate your move forward.

The key with this is not to think of the planetary spirit as one who is even remotely interested in your life and you: do not humanise such spirits nor personalise the relationship with them. They are power dynamics that work along the patterns of fate of every living thing. If you are not engaging within your pattern properly, the dynamic cannot flow properly, so the negative side of the power becomes prominent. If you are engaging properly, the productive side of the power flows freely along your pattern which in turn fuels your work and strengthens you.

This can be experienced in everyday life: if you are constantly hitting a wall in life, and everything is falling apart, it is likely you are not engaging with something as you should. Once you figure that out and properly engage, even the most terrible situations become stepping stones for you, and not stones to bash you with.

For the magician, instead of simply being on the passive receiving end of such influences, you can engage directly with the planetary spirit that you think is having a major influence upon you, and through conversing with the planetary spirit, you can understand what is happening, what it is you need to do, and then do it. This in turn frees everything up and allows the power to flow better.

Let us have a look at the other planets briefly, so that we can then move on to the work itself. Also note that the order of the planets, which is a traditional order, is not a decreasing list of power, rather it subtly outlines a pattern of influence that can be asserted in a ritual pattern that you already know.

## **Jupiter**

The positive influence of Jupiter is expansion, education, intelligence, wisdom, honesty, justice, good governance, charity, the power of priests, magicians, and kings/queens, and also of creativity. The negative influence of Jupiter is bigotry, fundamentalist thought, ignorance, dishonesty, dictatorship, greed and general idiocy.

## **Mars**

Mars is power, sheer power, and how that power manifests largely depends upon the individual. That power can be transformed positively to strength, endurance, energy, health, drive, and stability through powerful anchoring in one's own power. It works in conjunction with the slower planet Saturn in order to trigger self-limitation, hence it is connected to the magical sword. It can also be transformed negatively into aggression, cruelty, destruction, blind ambition, and 'bloodlust'. When the power of Mars exerts an influence on someone, it puts power behind what is already within a person or vessel, and brings it out.

## **The Sun**

The sun is your fulcrum, and when that fulcrum is solid, then the power of the sun flows through the fulcrum to bring success, energy, health, vitality, and balance to the best of your fate patterns' ability. If the fulcrum is weak or unstable, then the sun can bring degeneration of mind and body, and its influence can strike the magician, like the guardian cobra. The sun spits destruction to those who are continually off balance, and brings fuel to those who are working to maintain balance.

## **Venus**

The influence of Venus brings radiance, creativity, and a power of presence that comes from experience and wisdom. It is the lantern in your hand that is the result of your harvest and threshing, it is the beauty that is left over once Pluto has torn apart the wheat from the chaff.

The negative influence of Venus is arrogance, selfish indulgence, hoarding and clinging to power or possessions, passive aggressive cruelty, and not learning from experience. It is also the negative power of female rage that is merciless, the power of Sekhmet on the rampage and killing while out of control, and the unbalanced cold uncaring vicious female quality (that can express in men or women).

Be aware that Mars and Venus are often assigned as 'male' and 'female' powers which is a reductionist view. Rather they are outputting and receiving powers that have a close relationship with each other, and can often be worked with together.

## Mercury

Mercury is the power of the road ahead, of communication, speed of thought, and how the intellect of Jupiter and the work ethic of Saturn are used. Mercury is a 'doing' power that draws from the bigger planets and puts things into action on the ground. It is the spark between nerves, wires, and the power of lighting expressing itself.

Mercury is the power of the utterer in action, the filter that takes the sound of the wind and turns it into words and communication that we can understand. It is the speed of intelligence, and the translator between the gods and humanity that facilitates the magician to progress practically. It is the speed of thought, the quickness of action, and the fuel that propels the magician along their path.

The negative influence of Mercury is too much speed and no attention to detail, and the accumulation of useless knowledge that festers into degeneracy, a power of deception in communication, and the inability to focus.

## The Moon

The moon is an interesting one as it is the closest to us, and exerts a regular tide that profoundly affects everything on the planet. It affects our hormone system, our minds, and our magic with its rising and ebbing force.

It's complexity of action is so immediate and works with such regular patterns of twenty eight days it is the easiest classical 'planet' for us to work with, and yet can also easily confound us if we are not careful. In terms of magical work, and this work in particular it is very useful for us to connect with the moon to explore our own minds in the application of magic. However by the nature of the moon, it is also the one where we have to be able to observe ourselves without emotion in order to see if we are bringing through and working with the right qualities or not.

In terms of magic, the influence of the moon can expand our visionary abilities and our imagination in magical application, and we can use the rising and falling tides to either expand our magical influence, or retract it. A good side to the moons power is the strength of influence over our visionary work, and a bad side of the moons power can influence our minds and 'fool' us, leading us down dead ends in our work. Because of that, a lot of focused and powerful magic is best done at the dark moon when we can be sure of minimal influence.



The list of planetary influences that you have just read is a basic listing, and when it comes to magical interactions with these powers, you have to interpret such lists in terms of magic and what it is you are trying to achieve.

When you approach such a power in ritual, you have to draw upon everything you know and have learned in your training in order to interpret the communion and the subsequent effect of that communion in order to draw the full benefit of such work. When you talk to a planetary spirit in vision, the communion can go very deep, and it is up to the magician to be able to sift through the experience and understand what the contact is trying to say. When you approach the spirit in ritual, there is little inner communion, but by drawing the spirit into your pattern, its effects can be far more expressive in your physical life. From that expression, you can learn, if you are observant, how the interaction works both in the short term and long term for you as an individual magician.

I have found the best way is a mix of both inner communion and ritual presence, and then being able to spot for myself in my life how the results of that interaction pans out. Then you can act accordingly. So why would you work this way?

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### *When to connect with the planetary spirits in ritual*

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For the most part, an adept should be able to function as a magician with little interaction with such beings, but there does come a time for all of us when we cannot see the way ahead no matter what we do, and we feel backed in to a corner in some way, usually in life.

In such circumstances either we are not doing what we are supposed to be doing, or we are filtering the energy of the planets through the wrong channels. That is normal in everyday life, and it is through the missteps that we learn and evolve. When you are an adept magician, the stakes get higher and such missteps can be a major problem. It is up to a magician to stop being a passive mindless recipient of the forces, and to consciously engage with them.

That engagement comes in stages as the magician develops. So at first the magician connects to the planetary spirits in order to boost or focus a particular influence into a direction or filter that the magician feels is needed. As the magician progresses and evolves, they begin to learn that

working with a single planet magically can knock off the influences of the other planets as they filter down to you: push down one end of the seesaw and the other side tips up, swinging everything out of control.

So then the magician starts to work with the other planetary spirits also, but finds themselves having to constantly juggle to keep all the sides balanced. This can end up taking all the time of the magician and in the end little is truly achieved. This is caused by seeing each planetary influence as a stand-alone power, which they are not: they work together as a collective harmonic. Once the magician realises that, they then also spot that the other planets and also the fixed stars add ingredients into a power weave that connects into the fate pattern of the magician: the magician starts to 'hear' the orchestra as a whole as opposed to a group of single instruments.

It is usually at this point that the magician learns to back off trying to manipulate the forces flowing from the planets, and also begins to understand that it is not a pattern that is directly flowing down to the magician, rather the pattern only exists because of the magicians position on the earth relative to the stars above: we are an ingredient in the pattern itself, we are one of the spirits, we are a part of the consciousness of our own planet that is also a part of the larger pattern.

That understanding shifts how we perceive the planetary spirits, and also how we interact with them. Now the magician can interact with these powers as a collective, but also consulting or triggering one of the individual planets while also keeping such interaction in harmony with all of the others.

Through doing this work, you get used to feeling the subtle 'voices' of the planets, and when you are not converting the influence of a planet into the best expression you could; you feel the discordance. That discordance does not come from a malign influence of the planet, rather it comes from *our own reaction to that influence*. The power flows to us, what we do with it and how we react to it determines how that influence will play out in our actions, minds and magical work. And that is the key to the work we are going to do: it is all about how you react and how you convert the power and interaction. For example if Saturn moves into a dominant part of your fate pattern and its influence starts to really power up your fate pattern, what you do with that power determines how it will express in your life. It also depends upon the influences of the other planets and how they boost, counter balance, or clash with the Saturn power.

If the magician recognises the Saturn influence and self reflects upon

what they need to be doing and also how they need to be responding to the influence emotionally and mentally, such reflection can highlight a path ahead. If the magician recognises the path ahead and decides to engage it, the full power of Saturn flows into the magician and their fate pattern and 'lends a hand'. For example I worked with the influence of Saturn, Mars and Mercury when I made the decision to write this course.

Their influence was coming into a very strong alignment and I was really feeling the power bearing down on me. Such a combination could have played out through very difficult situations, but by looking at my fate pattern, consulting the Fates, and realising that I would have Saturn at my back, pushing me, for the next few years, I had choices. I could let that influence play out however it may, which could be through sickness, isolation, conflict, going back to school, working long hours in a dead end job in a call centre, or I could magically engage this gathering of power and provide the best possible vessel for it that was in harmony with my fate path.

So I engaged the power through the writing of the course. Saturn gives me the staying power, Mars gives me the energy, and Mercury helps with the inner contact, communion and the actual writing. It is all about how you choose to be, and what you chose to do with it. And those choices need reflection upon the individual fate path, and through interaction with the Fates.

So let us get to the working; once you have looked at the working then it will make far more sense.

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### *The ritual of Fate: working with the planetary spirits*

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To prepare, look up the transit positions of the seven classical planets in your current chart and map out the positions they would be in relative to each other if you laid your chart out on the floor. You can use the planetary sigils you made, but it is best to work without them: adept work only uses tools if they are absolutely necessary. And such use should get less and less as you develop into adepthood.

Also note that throughout this ritual, all communication from you should be both verbal and inner at the same time.

Have no tools out in the work space, and just use the central altar and a candle. Sit before the central altar facing south and meditate into

stillness and silence. When you are silent and still, light the candle with the intention of bringing into active light the magical pattern of the directions, above and below into the room and also within yourself.

Get up and circle the room a few times, meditating as you circle, and focus upon your fate pattern, and the intention of working with the planetary spirits. Be aware of their positions you have allocated around the room relative to your chart. Stop at each point where there is a planet position, and focus upon that planet. Do this a few times until it is clear in your mind as to these positions.

Once you are clear, stop at each position, focus upon each planet, and remember your previous work with planetary spirits: recall each one in your mind and also think about its power. Once you have that pattern established, go and stand in the south facing south as if you were stood before the altar, and call verbally and also inwardly the three Fates to the threshold. Stand there and focus upon them, and sense the build-up of their presence.

Bow to them, and ask them to assist you, if it is appropriate, to examine your fate pattern relative to the influence of the seven classical planets. Now circle the centre again and turn your attention to the centre: call upon Neith/ Ananke, the Weaver of the fate pattern, to be present and to bring her influence to this work. Then cast your mind to the anchor stone deep in the underworld, and remember that is the root of everything that affects your future: it is the power of the ancient past that defines the future path.

Work with the planets in descending order if you are going to do all seven: Saturn, Jupiter, Mars, the Sun, Venus, Mercury, and the Moon. If you are wishing to focus on one particular planet, first do Saturn and Jupiter, and treat them as the two pillars of the work before you approach the planetary spirit you wish to focus upon. Saturn and Jupiter are the two main planets that uphold a pattern, and they should be worked with together.

Go first to the position of Saturn in the room and still yourself. Call upon the planetary spirit of Saturn, and ask the spirit to help you assess and reflect upon how you are processing its power. First hold out your right hand: your harvest. Still yourself. Think about how you have engaged that power in the past in your life in terms of work, discipline, service and so forth. Once you have finished that examination, become still and silent, and listen. Feel into your right hand using your inner senses. Feel another hand come up under yours, connecting with your hand and supporting it.

Does your lantern brighten or fade? Does your hand get heavy or painful? Or does your hand feel strong and holding a good harvest? Once you have registered how it feels, go silent once again and listen: let the spirit speak into your mind, and hear its 'voice' through your hand. What has gone before in your life defines what you need to adjust and strengthen.

Now hold up your left hand. Ask the spirit out loud and also inwardly what level of influence or/and power is flowing from them to you for your future, the future that is triggered and formed in the present. If you are seeking to evaluate a situation or issue, keep that in the front of your mind. Feel into the left hand and feel another hand come up under yours: how does it feel? Does it make you feel inspired and ready for work, or does it feel heavy and difficult? Does it feel empty and blocked? Now be silent again.

Once you are silent, ask the Fates in the south and the Weaver above to give you a sense of the future path that is unfolding for you, relative to this planet influence: does it feel easy? Hard but good? Or hard and bad? Or does it feel blocked off? If both the sense from the planetary spirit and the Fates feel ok, you are on the right path and doing what you are supposed to be doing in terms of that planetary influence, and nothing further is needed: what you need to achieve your goal will come to you in one way or another. If it does not feel good and strong, then there is a problem in how you are approaching something.

When you detect a problem, you do not seek to change the fate path, rather you seek to change how you are processing the planet's influence to facilitate you upon that fate path. So if a problem is detected, think very carefully about how you process the energy of Saturn: are you willing to work/study/strike out on the path of life? Or are you shuffling around in the corner of your life? Is the power of Saturn flowing through your health and causing problems, when it should be flowing through your work? Those are the usual issues with Saturn power.

If you still cannot get a clear idea of what you need to change or shift, switch into visionary mode and communion with the spirit, or you can ritually utter a request to the spirit, asking it to show you in life what it is you are not doing right. That answer will come to you in the days or weeks that follow the work, and it will come through events, signs or life interactions: keep awareness so that you do not miss it.

But the best way to work is to try and use your inner senses and work with the hands, and through self-analysis: know yourself and be truthful to yourself, and learn to feel into the contact between you and the spirit

through your hands. You are learning an ancient form of divination which relies solely upon your ability to understand the magical dynamics of the hands, and your own inner senses. That is a major skill to develop for an adept – your hands become your tools.

Once you have finished with Saturn, bow to the spirit presence, and bow to the Fates, and move on to Jupiter. You repeat the whole process with Jupiter. You can do all of the planets, but if you choose not to, regardless of any other planet you wish to commune with, always work with Saturn and Jupiter, as they are anchors in your fate pattern.

When you have finished working with the planets, go and sit in the south with your back to the central altar, and sit in the presence of the three Fates. You do not need to communicate, simply shut up and be there. Let them extend their influence over you and trigger within your mind whatever needs triggering. You will feel when it is time to back away from the contact as they will fade and leave first. You will feel the difference in the space and within yourself one they have left.

Before you close down the working, go and stand before the central altar. Be aware of yourself in the centre as the fulcrum, and be aware of the Weaver above you. Feel her presence over you and her touch upon your head. Ritually utter your willingness to accept her weaving in your life and to follow her weave, not to fight it. Feel her reach down into you and fill you with her weaving. Feel it strengthen the path before you and also feel the weave flow through you down into the underworld, strengthening the connection between her, you and the anchor.

Once she withdraws, Bow to her, thank the powers in the room and then blow out the light.

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### *Analysis of technique*

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On first glance this technique can appear to be simple, and yet it is not. By the time a magician is in adept training, the simplest techniques often hide beneath them treasure boxes that can open out and develop in all kinds of ways.

It moves the magician from simply asking a planetary spirit for something like a child would ask a parent, something that is important to the magician at that time, but is in fact irrelevant, and turns the magician towards a more complex interaction between the planetary spirit, the

influence of the planet, the Fates, and most importantly of all, the deeper self of the magician.

The twists and turns of life, and the events within life that challenge us and come sometimes lead us to despair, are largely dependent upon how the magician chooses to gather up influences flowing to us, and how we act as a result of those influences. The powers that affect our fate paths like storms or high winds can be allowed to batter us or we can use them to fuel our own magical development, and our own life path.

So instead of standing before a planetary spirit and asking for resources, strength, knowledge, and so forth, we stand before them, in the company of the Fates, and we measure our own responses to the powers that flow to us, and discern through inner senses, how best to utilise those powers in order to move forward.

It is about collaboration, and not about control. And it is also about understanding how little we can see, at ground level, of the vast weave that is our fate choices. So for example, if you are finding it hard to get a job no matter what you do, and you are a working magician who is doing what you think you are supposed to be doing, but you are quickly running out of resources, you would engage this working, and first approach Saturn and Jupiter. These two planetary powers balance each other out, and one magically engaged without the other can cause some pretty wild swings of practical imbalance in life. Here is an example.

First Saturn is approached. The magician first weighs their own harvest in the lantern hand, and the hand feels heavy and 'not right'. The magician then uses the left hand to see what influence is flowing from Saturn for the future, and the hand feels weighty but good, but also as if it was on pause: just how a blocked life feels.

Before moving on to Jupiter, the magician goes and sits down before the Fates and focusses upon their right hand: the past harvest is always the key to the future. He first silences himself and then starts to think about the various areas of his life that may be affecting his ability to move forward in work. He has a good resume, lots of work experience, great references, and yet cannot get a job and is quickly plunging into a financial abyss.

As the magician goes through parts of his present life in his mind, a sudden memory pops up: a year before, he had been asked in vision to do something for a local power. He had forgotten about it and had not done what was asked. The fates are nudging him through the sudden memory. He wonders if not doing the magical task that he had promised

was having a bearing on his ordinary life. So the magician gets back up and goes back to Saturn and stands once more in the power of the planetary spirit. He asks the spirit for guidance, and once again weighs his right hand with *the intention of doing the task he had previously agreed to*. His hand immediately lightens up, and his left hand suddenly feels freer, better, brighter. Now he has identified what he needs to do, he feels into the spirit, to the power of service, work, and discipline, and feels that power flowing into him. He feels lighter, inspired, and ready to take on whatever is to come.

He moves on to Jupiter and once again feels into his right hand. The magician feels the balance of his lifestyle in his right hand, and it feels fine: he lives well but not to excess, and he wears the authority of his status around others lightly and with intelligence – he is a good and mature leader by nature. The magicians' left hand also feels good: there is a weight there, but also a feeling of excitement and purpose.

The planetary spirit seems to focus all of its attention onto the magicians' left hand, as if to emphasize something, and the magician slowly gets a deep sense of responsibility rising up. The planetary spirit waits. The responsibility the magician feels that is rising out of their emotions is strong, and a bit scary, but the magician also feels up to the challenge and is willing to make the best of it.

The magician does not go on to work with the other spirits: he has his answer, and has the feeling of the planetary influences behind him like a good wind. He goes off to do the task he had agreed to do, and a month later he is contacted out of the blue with an excellent job that is a good salary but a great deal more responsibility that he is used to. The job means he has to move house and uproot himself, but he feels the planetary influences working through him, giving him what he needs to succeed.

Whenever he feels a bit overwhelmed in his job, he focuses in on the ritual he did and the feel of the planetary influences: he draws upon them in his mind in order to face the challenges ahead of him.

In everyday life, this focus and conscious interaction with the planetary influences largely passes unnoticed. People are buffeted by the tides of influence and fate, and can often get stuck without knowing why. But the magician always needs to keep awareness, as often the smallest things can slow a path own or even block it.

I have had my life put on hold because I had forgotten to do something I had promised to do, or because I was just not getting something. As



soon as the issue was identified and remedied, the path opened up again.

It can also be a good exercise to simply stand within the presence of the Fates and the planetary spirits, standing in the centre and feeling into the two hands, feeling the combined influences flowing through you, and examining your current position on your life path. Instead of complex conversations with the spirits, you learn to stand in the presence of them, and get your answers from how your own inner and outer body react, shift and feel in response to that encounter.

And when something does not feel right, you go through in your mind all the options available to you in life until you feel the shift in power. Once you make the decision of what action to take, doing that in the presence of the Fates and the spirits fully engages their power in a focused way so that you can draw upon it and have it flow through you.

It is a magical version of the old saying: *give a man a fish you feed him for the day, give him a fishing rod and you feed him for life*. You don't ask the planetary spirits *for* things, you ask them *about* things, so that you can achieve through your own actions and understanding. And you ask by way of your own knowledge and inner sense, so that the answer comes as a mix between the influence of the spirit, and your own self-analysis and inner senses: it's a team effort.

As you can see from the example, it is not a rigid set ritual, rather it is a starting point that the magician can expand upon, adjust and work within. It is more a matter of you stepping into the sphere of an influence as opposed to direct contact, and the magician can work in combinations of actions, and move freely between the spirits and fates as necessary.

This method, and the method of using the hands for analysis can be deployed in all sorts of different magical workings and situations, and the same can also be done with the feet. It is up to you to develop the techniques as and when you see fit.

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## *Divination*

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When you are in a situation or space where you cannot focus enough to commune with the spirits, there are ways you can interact in order to gain information or draw influences into your sphere in a stronger and more focused way by using a combination of astrology and divination.

Look again at the planets in transit in your chart, and look at the houses they fall in. Get out your Quareia deck and also draw a circle

on a large piece of paper, and draw the lines that make up the twelve houses: number them and make sure you know to have a book close to hand that outlines what each house represents.

In the house that currently has Saturn transiting, place the Grindstone, which is the deeper aspect of that planetary influence. Where Jupiter falls, place the card Resources, where Mars falls, place the Limiter, place the cards Sun and Moon where the sun and moon fall, Where Venus falls place the Regenerator, and where Mercury falls, place the Staff of the Gods. These are root magical powers that flow from and connect to the planets.

Now place the three Fates above the whole thing with Fate Giver on the top left, Fate Holder on the top middle, and Fate Taker to the top right. In this divination, their fate indications are about your current fate situation, its beginning, the peak you are currently in, and its conclusion before a new line of fate action begins.

These card positions are layout positions unique to you at that point in time. Your question for the reading is: *show me the planetary influences that are currently effecting me so that I can best decide how to move forward.* Shuffle your cards with the intent to lay them down in the order of first the three Fates from left to right, and then the planets each in turn starting from the left/east and working down/around the chart for each planet. Each card you place out is put on top of the position card, and the two cards are read together. The planets cards are read also in conjunction with the houses they fall in. So for example if you have Saturn and Mars in the fourth house, you would read the Grindstone, the Limiter, and the cards you put down upon them, all within the context of the fourth house.

As an example, let's assume you shuffled and the card that came out to go on top of the Grindstone is the Weaver of Creation, and the card that came out to go on the Limiter was the Chariot, all in the fourth house. The Three Fates, which have cards placed upon them first, came out as Threshold Guardian, Luna, Temptation. We would read all of that as follows:

1. First we read the three Fates. The first card tells us that the round of fate we are currently in is a far reaching cycle that is bringing in new things to life for the long term, and taking out old tired dynamics we no longer need: the Threshold Guardian. The second card tell us that we cannot see the current pattern as it is veiled: Luna is the moonlight where it is difficult to get clear vision. The third card tells us that what ends the cycle is the potential for Temptation.

Temptation is basically a warning that doing something you know is wrong is likely to bring a degenerate end to the cycle rather than a balanced completion. So as magicians, we take note of that warning, which we will come back to.

2. Then we read the planetary cards, starting with Saturn. The Grindstone representing Saturn, and the Weaver of Creation are in the fourth house. This tells us that the discipline and hard work that Saturn gives as an influence is flowing through and triggering the creation of something wonderful and new in the home. This could be a home based business, having a child, or the magical work done in the home. When we look back at the Fate Giver, we note the Threshold Guardian: this all together sets up a pattern of a great deal of influence flowing into the fourth house that is the beginning of something long term, creative and potentially unique.
3. We then look at Mars which is also in the fourth house. We have the Limiter for Mars and the Chariot that came out of the shuffled cards to go on top of the Limiter. The Limiter is also related to the power of Saturn, and is the power that gives boundaries and limits power so that it can be worked with: it transforms things under pressure. Over the top of it is the Chariot. This is all read in context of the other cards in the fourth house, and could mean that the 'something' that is being created will also create limitations upon the home life of the person, and those limitations will bring travel (inner or outer) or powerful spiritual evolution.
4. You then go back to the last fate card which was Temptation, the warning. The advice on what to avoid in context of this card would come from the card that falls on Mercury, which has a deeper magical influence as the 'road protector or keeper': what falls on Mercury is advice for the road ahead.

So you can start to see how you can build up a complex pattern in order to look at the planetary influences in tandem with your chart, so that you can make informed decisions, be warned of things you were not seeing, and take advice from the spirits through the cards.

You can then go from this working back to working ritually with the planetary spirits and Fates, should you need to draw upon and focus their influence in a particular aspect of life. What you do not do is harass the spirits for clarification on your reading or for answers to stupid questions. Always approach this work with the intelligence and maturity of the adept.

## *Skills to develop for yourself*

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Through the work you have done with planetary spirits, in vision, ritual, charts and divination, you have gained a variety of skills, some of which you may not be aware of. A lot of the adept training is layered: there is an obvious layer that is explained and stated, and then there are other layers that hide beneath that work, layers that you can tease out and develop for yourself.

What brings these layers up to the surface for you to work with is necessity and enquiry: often necessity fuels the need to look closer and to experiment. Here are some things you can learn how to do by applying what you have learned while also developing new forms of work for yourself. These are just a small selection of applications, there are many more for you to find if you see fit to do so.

Working with the moon to veil magic or yourself, and working with the moon to time a working from beginning to completion in order to fuel it.

Using retrogrades to influence ritual – i.e. using Mercury retrograde to uncover lost text, or to reach deeply into the past to retrieve forgotten knowledge.

Working with Mercury to guide you on a new unknown path

Working with the faster moving planets to fuel and protect a round of magical work

Using planetary alignments in ritual and vision to open gates, trigger streams of power or bring about conclusion.

There are all sorts of applications, and as an adept, it is up to you to forge your own unique way of working with these powers, using what you have learned to develop a new body of work.

Once you have become used to working with the planetary influences through vision and ritual, you can then engage what you know about charts, about contacted sigil making, and ritual weaving in order to design, make and magically infuse talismans that draw upon those planetary influences in various combinations for protection, invisibility, resources, or to hold a magical pattern in your sphere for a length of time. Again, you draw upon what you have learned in order to develop your

own working method that becomes unique to you.

This way of developing unique techniques cannot be passed on to others, it is truly your own work and that work will die when you die. These days people think that this is bad, and that once you develop a certain method, it should be passed on to the next generation. Sometimes that is true, particularly when it is foundation techniques that will facilitate a student to develop. But self-developed adept methods are a part and parcel of your own magical evolution, and the process of discovering a new method for yourself moves you forward. That in turn keeps the whole pattern of magic healthy and moving forward in human evolution.

If newly developed adept techniques are all handed back down the ladder to the initiates coming up, there is less and less drive in those initiates to develop for themselves: they become baby chicks with their mouths ever open, looking for mummy or daddy to feed them. It hobbles their magical evolution.

So throughout the adept work, you are given one layer of the magic, but beneath all of them are further layers to be discovered, developed and transformed into something new. And the true sign of development is that you evolve beyond your teacher: the adept should have more skills, knowledge and ability than their teacher by the time they finish their training and take up work of the adept. When an apprentice first starts training, they view their teacher as 'all knowing'. If by the time you are a mature adept, you view me as interesting but limited, then I know I can rest easy as I have done my job well. It means the magic and the magicians are evolving.

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### *Task*

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Keep computer files of notes from this lesson, outlining what work you did, what came out of that work, and your own observations and experiments.

The final lesson in this module, lesson eight, is not a lesson, but the original Latin text of the Arbatel, so that you can go over the text for yourself even if you do not read Latin. You can look at the capitalisations, some of which are blinds, some of which are religious, and some of which emphasize importance of a word or sentence for magical reasons.

QUAREIA

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