



QUAREIA—THE ADEPT
Module V—Advanced Magic
Lesson 2: Power Containment

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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



QUAREIA—THE ADEPT

Module V—Advanced Magic

Lesson 2: Power Containment

There are times in adept magic, and in the work that presents to ones with such skills, where you will need to contain a power or being before you can safely deposit it where it needs to be. There are various ways to contain power or beings: through an object or vessel, through ritual pattern containment, by containing it in the body, or by working with beings in vision to back something into a corner and hold it there.

The reasons for containing rather than immediately depositing a being somewhere safe can be varied. It depends on the power or being that needs containing, the situation itself, your physical or inner situation, and the timing. We cannot cover all the variables as there are too many, but looking at some situations and how to approach them will trigger learning within you, which you can then expand through your work as necessity dictates.

The main reason for using containment is timing. Often when a magician is presented with a dangerous power or being that needs to be disengaged from a pattern, it is part of a much bigger situation unfolding. The work presented for you to do is often a small but key aspect of that situation, and by taking out of circulation one power or being, the rest of the pattern can be dealt with by others, be they other magicians or inner beings.

You will find that as an adept you are often put in the path of various situations that need dealing with for some wider pattern to be broken up

and composted. Often you are not aware of the wider pattern of events unfolding until after the work is done; instead you perceive a standalone situation that you are called to deal with. But during, or after, the work, it then becomes very clear that what you worked on was part of a much bigger picture. Your work took out a key element of that wider situation, which let the rest of it begin to crumble and collapse.

Experiencing such a magical situation can also teach you a great deal about yourself as a human and a magician, and how you might approach serious difficulties in your path. When faced with a lot of destruction in your life, it can become overwhelming to think about how much you have to overcome: the struggle can seem impossible and soul-destroying. But once you learn how to contain and disperse a key power or being in a situation, you start to see how such overwhelming, difficult situations can often be broken up and regenerated by dealing with some key element instead of tackling the whole thing.

Everything you learn in magic can be applied to everyday life; and everything that happens at a vast power level throughout the worlds also happens in octaves at ground level in ordinary life. The dynamics are the same; the approach is the same.

The more skill, knowledge, and magical maturity an adept acquires in their training and work, the more powerful the situations they are presented with to deal with magically. So never take a seemingly simple presentation of work at face value. Always keep an eye out for what may be connected to it or be behind it.

So let us get back to containment.

As you know, planetary transits, lunar cycles, solar cycles, fate patterns, and power tides are all connected in complex weaves. If you are dealing with a dangerous power or being which has a wider effect on everything around it, then you would need to draw on the tides and flows of these powers to gather the strength and endurance necessary to deposit the problematic entity where it belongs.

It took me years to figure that out. Often I would struggle against such tides when I was hauling a being back into hibernation or trying to disperse a power to render it harmless. Such struggles can take a huge toll on the body and mind, and I used to pride myself on being ‘the Little Engine That Could.’ I would force my body and mind to struggle with the burden. What an idiot I was.

Eventually I was shown that I was really wasting my time and effort,

harming myself by approaching the work in that way, and being totally dumb. I eventually learned that if I could contain such a being or power, then when the tide turned, I could simply release it with little or no effort back to where it needed to be. The trick was the containment. Through trial and error I learned the many different ways of containment, which ones worked well under which circumstances, and which did not.

I also learned, the harsh way, that no one method exists that would work for containing more or less everything. A lot of magical and mystical systems have containment methods within them that use contacts, utterance, sigils, sacred letter combinations, seals, tools, and so forth. They are all used in a set way, regardless of the situation. They would be deployed in a fixed way and expected to work: do this ritual, use this seal, combine these letters, and it would work. Except it didn't. I was at the point of throwing in the towel, as it seemed that most containment magic didn't work. So what was the point of trying?

At that point of defeat, I was presented with situations that I could not walk away from. They had to be contained no matter what, as people close to me were under serious threat. It was then, at a time of defeat and necessity, that I began to learn.

It was also the beginning of my learning about what I call 'switches and sockets.' If the plug fit the socket, it would work; if it didn't, it would not. So I began to learn not only how to match up the containment method to the being or power, but also about the individual natures of different situations.

Every situation needs its own unique approach within a sphere of predictable variables. If you understand the basic dynamics and are flexible and imaginative in your thinking, then you will find the right working method. If you stick to fixed, rigid methods without compromise, it will not work.

First let's look at some examples where containment would be needed, then at the various methods that can be used and developed according to the situation at hand. Remember, you never use this on other humans—trying that will open the door for you to be bound up out of action.

Examples of situations

Here are a list of the most common situations adepts come across that need containment.

Smaller destructive beings. These beings, though not of great power, can create havoc in a situation, and they are not always easy to put back in their own environment straightaway. Often the pattern, or whatever drew them to a situation, needs to die back before they can be safely returned to where they belong. Beings elemental in nature, of fire and air, are the most common, followed by elemental beings of earth, beings from the Underworld Shallows, and so forth. These beings can cause all sorts of problems for people if they get in the wrong place at the wrong time, including repeated house fires, triggering repeated conflict in the people of a household, or draining the life out of someone. We will look in depth at their presentations in the adept exorcism section (adept module seven), as in this lesson we are focusing on the actual containment.

Certain types of vessels. Contaminated tools, objects that hold destructive energetic patterns after they have been ‘possessed,’ objects which been magically worked on for malign reasons etc.

Patterns of magic created to destroy, kill, or attack; or formed as a result of malign obsession, which have then become ‘inhabited.’

Natural objects with powerful destructive forces flowing through them, like stones from volcanic outcrops that hold hostile power in them; or stones, bones, jewellery or other objects which have been taken from sacred ground or burials and have triggered guardians or contain spirits hostile.

Future magic. Magic the magician has created for future deployment but which needs time to ‘mature’ or wait before being released.

Curse objects Objects that dispense curses and have been left near or in the victims’ home.

We come across some of these situations many times as adepts, and often we are not in a position to drop everything immediately and deal with the issue at length. So we use containment as a temporary solution until we have the time or learn the skill we need to deal with the issue.

Sometimes the actual work of dealing with such situations needs to be timed to a phase of the moon or astrological patterns to draw on planetary powers and tides. Other times we need to wait until we have gathered all the tools and ingredients of magic to deal with a situation properly, in a balanced way. Too often magicians have knee-jerk reactions and use overkill methods to destroy something, when it really just needs putting back where it belongs.

There are also issues to do with energy, knowledge, and place. Bridging a being back to its own environment, where it will do no harm to us, takes a lot of energy. It also takes skill, and knowing the right inner and outer place to put it. Sometimes you can deal with it straightaway; other times you would have to drive many miles to a specific area, which means you have to contain the issue in the meantime.

Sometimes there is nowhere safe to put such a being or object. Then it needs encasing to limit it, and storing safely out of harm's way until one day you can figure out what to do with it. There are also times, particularly with objects connected with the dead, where it is best to release their inhabitants at the right time of year.

When it comes to magically-formed destructive patterns, they are best confined, then held long-term until the wider pattern they were meant to hook into has run its course, making them obsolete. Cursed objects need containment until the cursed person is well out of the way and has been properly protected, and contaminated tools need containment until the magician can find the right way to destroy them without releasing the contamination in a way that would damage anything around it. Think of these like radioactive substances: they need proper containment and destruction.

One of the main and most important things with containment is time. Getting the situation under control by containment is only the first step; then you need time for the situation's energy to die back. It is important for magicians to get out of the mentality that a single act fixes a problem; it rarely does.

The initial containment is only a first step. Then, created patterns, whether formed naturally or magically, need to be starved of their connection so they can die back. And that takes time, sometimes months, sometimes even a couple of years. If you act too quickly between the act of containment and release, then you can sometimes end up right back where you started.

I once had to contain a fire being that was causing house fires, inflammation in the residents, and rage. It took nearly two years for the pattern that had formed in the affected house to die back enough I could safely deposit the being without any risk of it going back. Again, we will cover this sort of thing in more detail in adept module seven.

Choosing the right container

What you contain a problem in is really important. You need the appropriate container for the job. The *nature* of the container needs to be up to the job and be able to contain the elemental structure of the issue. Using magic alone, as in seals and so forth, leaves a lot of room for mistakes and failure. The actual substance of the container must be appropriate. Here are some examples:

Lead. Lead can contain most problematic beings and objects, but it is difficult to find these days. I keep a couple of lead containers for such jobs. Once the being or object is in the lead container it then needs sealing magically and physically. Magically-prepared bindings to keep the lid on work well, as does a strong glue if you will not release whatever is contained.

Stone boxes, containers, and heavy stoneware jars and boxes that are then sealed. They can contain a lot of beings or objects unless they are themselves of stone. Air and fire beings can be comfortably accommodated in stone containers.

Heavy glass can also contain fire and/or air beings; but the container needs to be heavy, thick, blown glass. Again it is sealed magically and physically. Never use wax sealing with fire beings unless you will also use magically-prepared bindings.

Metal. Iron is best, and needs to be thick and strong, like an iron chest or box.

Puzzle boxes. Some beings can be sealed up in puzzle boxes that they cannot work out.

Silver boxes or containers, but they must be made from actual silver. A lot of contaminated tools and objects can be contained in silver, then bound up.

Copper. Some troublesome objects or beings can be contained within copper containers, then wrapped in ritual patterned cloths and put inside a bigger box that is then then sealed.

As you can see, a lot of the best containers are difficult to find these days, and cannot just be bought in a shop. I find that if I wander around junkyards, charity shops, and second hand shops then I often come

across things that can be used in such ways. They particularly tend to show up if a need is on the horizon but I do not yet know it.

I have found lead boxes, silver containers, thick glass, stoneware jars, stone boxes, puzzle boxes, and so forth all in junk shops. When I come across them, if I have the money, I get them. Often the need for them comes a few months or weeks later. However, in some places around the world such things can be very difficult to find, particularly in modern cities. Then you have to get imaginative.

Also remember that the best way to get a being in a box is to lure it there with something that catches its attention; or to offer refuge to the being, while making the environment around it unpleasant by way of smells, thresholds, and sounds.

Here are some more unusual methods of containment that you can deploy if needed. Dual containment can work when you do not have the ideal tools for the job. Dual containment is where you use an initial container likely to attract a being, like a glittery or patterned object, or where you need layers of containment for an object.

Dual containment for a being

The initial container must be interesting to the being. It could be a wooden or metal box, a small bottle or jar, or even a small doll. The first container will not hold the being for long, so when it has entered it the container is wrapped in a patterned cloth which has been magically worked to create knots and mazes. Then it is put in a bigger wooden box. Substances can be put in this box to create energies of smells that will not threaten the being but are unpleasant for it, which will encourage it to stay put. If you intentionally try to destroy the being or aggressively threaten it then you are likely to make more work for yourself. The external box is then sealed, bound, and put in storage.

Dual containment for an object

With a contaminated or cursed object, there is no need to worry about actually destroying or threatening a being. You just need to disable the power and contain it, like a poison. If you do not have an ideal container to hand, then wrap the object in a magically patterned and worked-on cloth. Bind it physically and magically, place it in a watertight and airtight container, and fill the container with salt so that every part of the bound object is surrounded by it.

If you cannot get your hands on that much salt quickly then you can use vinegar instead. Just ensure that whatever you are trying to contain is totally surrounded. Just remember that such a containment is toxic not only because of the contaminated object, but also by nature of the salt or vinegar. You cannot bury it, as you would contaminate a land area by doing so. Such containment can be used as a temporary containment until you can destroy the object by fire or at the right time.

Some beings can be lured in pictures or puzzle patterns, which can then be wrapped up in ritually-prepared cloths, bound up physically and ritually, sealed, then placed in a magically-guarded cupboard. Just don't forget about them, and release them properly when you are able to.

Binding and patterning

Binding and patterning is used a great deal in magic, and not only for dealing with problem issues. It can also be used to anchor something ritually so that it can be built on, and patterning can be used to externalise a ritual or visionary pattern to 'fix' it in time and action.

Your work on ritual sigils and patterns was a form of such fixed patterning. They hold the energy of a pattern in an externalised way so that it can be worked on repeatedly; and they can anchor an inner pattern in the outer world or dispense inner patterned magic in an outer situation in a stable way.

Binding is used in magic not only to contain something problematic, but also to limit yourself into a round of work, to contain power for necessary use later, or to contain magic in a space for ritual purpose.

Binding can be powerful, and as such needs to be used sparingly and with common sense. If you go around binding everything up, then you will trigger a bigger being to come along and bind you up as a 'problem being.'

Also remember that anything you bind, you are responsible for. Any beings must be released properly and in a timely manner. Do not turn into a prison guard or dictator, or you will be viewed in the wider inner world as a problem to be dealt with.

Binding objects that need containment is different: you are not limiting the life expanse of a being, just containing contamination within your environment.

So what methods do you use?

Vision and ritual methods for binding and patterns

Binding must always be done for a balanced reason. A being in the 'wrong place' or an object contaminated by human action will need containment and eventual release back to where it belongs; and a contaminated object needs containment prior to destruction. Both those actions are balanced when justified.

Binding for a balanced reason gives you access to powers beyond yourself. If you are working to restore balance to a situation then the inner powers will flow freely through you. If you bind a living being, spirit or human, without justified balance, then eventually you could end up being bound out of action yourself. Remember the dynamics you learned as an apprentice and initiate.

Binding needs an exterior and an inner expression brought together for it to work properly. Sometimes when there is a wider need for the binding, the inner powers will trigger automatically and all you have to do is the outer action. It is up to the adept to ascertain whether both are needed, or just the externalisation.

The exterior method of binding can be done in the ritual space using rope, string, strong strips of linen, coloured strong ribbon, or anything else that will not break or decay. It can also be done away from the ritual space, but the magician will draw on the directional pattern as they work. You weave from an inner perspective as you tie the outer knots. Utterance can be used, or silence; again, it is up to the magician and the individual situation. The wrapped object or box in question is physically bound, then once the binding and knots are in place it is sealed by dripping wax, hot melted resin, or even strong glue over the knots to harden them.

Cloth patterns also come in very handy, and can be wrapped around the object or around the box before the bindings go on as a layer of containment. The cloth can have maze or unbroken swirl patterns to keep the being busy if they break out of the first layer of containment; or it can have patterns and sigils from a containment ritual. The magician creates the ritual pattern, lowers it into the cloth, then exteriorises it by drawing out the ritual pattern on the cloth. You should know about that by now.

It can also be used as a second layer over the binding, wrapping the bound vessel, box, or object in the patterned cloth. The cloth is then anchored and sealed with more bindings and a seal to close off the knots.

Sometimes only a first layer of binding and sealing is needed. It all depends on what is being contained and how toxic it is. Never go for overkill. Remember, sometimes it is enough just to find a simple large stone, invite the being into it, and deposit it outside, away from the house. But if the being is big and dangerous, get it right first time: once they figure out what you are doing, they will fight you.

Inner visionary or inner sense work can be used as you ritually prepare or as you wrap the bindings. And this is the bit where the justified balance comes in. Remember, as an adept you have gone through the process of becoming Justified. This means that everything you do must be in harmony with that—your actions must be justified. Then a lot of power will come up behind you to work with you.

For binding and patterns we turn to the Weavers, to Ananke, or to spider spirits. As you work, connect in vision to one of those powers and either have them work through you or, in the case of Ananke, have her arms work above you, weaving with you.

Once the troublesome thing is contained, put it where it cannot access power or be disturbed. Never place a very powerful contained being near an electricity power outlet like a wall socket—that is like leaving keys near a handcuffed person. The electricity can be drawn on by the being's consciousness to try and overcome the bindings.

If you intend to release whatever is contained, place it in a dark cupboard or corner where there is little or no human traffic, and where it is unlikely to be knocked or disturbed. This encourages the being to settle down and wait. When the time for release comes, do not delay if it is inconvenient; get to the task straightaway. Once you imprison a being beyond necessary, the powers that worked with and through you, and that continue to work on the containment, will withdraw, as containing the being is no longer necessary and balanced.

If you intend never to release the being then you are effectively lining it up for descent into the Abyss through natural means: containment, then burial. Do not keep the trapped being around the house indefinitely, as so many things can go wrong. As soon as possible, take it somewhere to bury it. It needs to be buried away from running water, so do not dig near a river or stream—unless it is a fire being, in which case dropping the bundle in a deep part of a lake would work, unless the lake is regularly

fished... then it could come back up again!

The perfect place would be an area with granite rock geology, but any place very unlikely to be disturbed by building for a decade would work. Dig as deep a hole as possible, and as you dig, in your mind see yourself digging down to the Underworld caves that feed into the Abyss.

Before you dig, remove the top layer of soil, turf, and any plants and put them to one side. Place the bundle in the hole, put rocks over it, then fill in the hole. Then replace the layer of soil with the turf and plants so that you cannot clearly see where the hole has been dug.

Non-hostile need for containment

We have looked a lot at how to contain hostile beings and energies, but sometimes a more neutral containment is needed. This is usually when a power, pattern, or deity needs to be contained or restricted, either to put it to sleep or to keep it in a holding pattern prior to release at a specific time.

As an apprentice and initiate you learned about timing and holding magic as you worked, usually waiting for a moon cycle before release. That is basic containment. Sometimes a less passive containment is needed, though, and that is the realm of adept work. First you learn to work with natural flows without trying to control power, so that you do not become glamoured by the power and try to grab it. Then as an adept you can learn passive and neutral containment techniques so that power can build until it is released at the critical point.

This is a form of ‘pressure cooker’ magic: by patterning the magic, drawing in the lines of power and contact, then placing it in a holding pattern, power starts to build and ‘ferment.’ It is kept that way until it gets to critical mass, and is then released; or it is timed for release during a specific astrological alignment or lunar phase.

There are many different ways of doing this, some of which you will discover for yourself through necessity; but the main two are *working space containment* and *vessel containment*.

You have already learned a lot of the skills needed for such actions. The trick is knowing how to put all the elements of your learning together, why, and when. We will look at the why and when in a moment.

Working space containment

Containing things in your working space is good, but it can be very impractical for many magicians. For example I live in a small house, and I do not have a dedicated working space, so this method of containment is not possible for me. However if you are lucky enough to have a dedicated working space that *no one else can enter*, then you can use that working space as the container and pressure cooker.

When the inner and outer patterns of a magical working are brought together and the flows of power, contact, and bridges are in place, then the pattern is formed first inwardly, then patterned outwardly through maps, sigils, text, or an object. The two are fused together, then left on the central altar. The gates are kept open, and the directional and centre lights are kept going and are attended to regularly throughout each day. The magician circles, tunes the space to the Gathering, and visits each direction daily, sometimes a few times each day. This keeps the pressure on and the power building. This can be done for days or weeks until it builds to a point of almost explosion, and then it is released out into the world to go and do its job.

As you can see, such work takes space, time, and resources. You cannot go off to work and leave it building: you have to stay on site, regularly visiting the space throughout the day to replenish candles, circle, and keep building the power. For most of us this is not possible, so we contain and build power another way.

Vessel containment

The power pattern and the visionary and ritual work is done, but the magic is not released. Instead a vessel is prepared, usually a box, large jar, or similar container—remember the discussion about types of containers. It is placed on the central altar before the work begins. For using a vessel to contain power, certain things have to be planned ahead.

The adept needs to be very clear beforehand as to what ritual pattern they will use, and they paint a complex sigil, the expression of the ritual, on the inside lid of the box or the inside of the vessel's stopper. This is done on the inside rather than the outside because you are holding the

power in the pattern, not using the pattern to deflect or encompass what is being restricted.

Depending on the power, intent, and method of distribution, a stone or water is used as an elemental receiver for the power; or a small object is used to hold the power which is then dropped into the vessel. Once the ritual and visionary work is finished, and the magic is contained in a woven inner pattern, the inner pattern is held in the centre above the altar, then lowered into the receiver (stone, water, or object) already inside the vessel or container. The wider power pattern in the ritual space—contacts, bridges, and so forth—is handed upwards for angelic or deity beings to hold until you are ready to work on it again. Remember the training work you did that taught you how to lower completed power patterns into things, and handing things upwards?

The lid is then placed on the vessel, the directional candles are brought into the centre to surround the vessel and shrink the work space, and the vessel is then sealed with wax and bound with ritual bindings. The bindings are put on using eyes-open vision and physical binds, with a weaver power working through you. The whole thing is then placed in the northeast of the house or building, and the deity or contact power of the northeast that you are working with in the pattern is asked to hold it and let it build.

You will feel the magic start to build. Your energy still works within the ritual pattern, so you will be connected to it. As it builds, you will feel the pressure in your emotions, and potentially in your body. When you can bear it no more is usually the time ripe for release, unless you are timing it specifically to a planetary, lunar, or other astronomical event.

When it is time for release, the vessel is taken back to the ritual space, the gates are opened, the pattern is lowered into the space from above, and you essentially pick up where you left off. The seals and binds on the vessel are broken, the object, stone, or water is brought out—water would be poured into your vessel, ready for dispensing—the south or west gates are opened wide depending on what you are doing and where going, and the inner pattern is released out of the object and through the gates of the direction.

Sometimes you get a very strong feel of the power as it releases, as though a whirlwind flows through you. Stay on the threshold of the direction while the release happens, so that it can flow through and from you. Once the power dies down, the object, water, or stone is taken outside and released in the same direction as the magical work was released.

Why and when

Sometimes this holding-back of power to build it up can run parallel to an outer event that the magic is involved in. As the outer situation builds to a critical point, so does the magic. The two are brought together just before the critical mass explodes so that they release together.

This works along the same lines as Tantra, and though there are obvious parallels with sex and magic, Tantra is far more than that. Containment, parallel alignment towards a focal point, and dual critical release can jettison magic powerfully, like a bullet towards a target.

As you can guess, such work can be very destructive in immature hands; but thankfully just doing an outer ritual, the details of which can be read in a book, will accomplish nothing without having proper inner contact, knowledge of the inner weaving of power, and sufficient inner muscle to hold such power. These cannot be learned by reading alone, but like an art form come only by repeatedly practising individual skills and eventually bringing them together.

The choice to use such a containment method is not made intellectually, but comes from your deeper awareness. If you are working with planets as part of the pattern, then the planets work in cycles. Their power rises and falls, and with that sort of rhythm you can use containment to mirror those cycles to bring into focus the maximum amount of pressure. Sometimes you do not need such a method; sometimes you do. The situations are all unique, and *your inner senses must guide you* when choosing your working methods. Those inner senses allow the Inner Library and contacts to speak to you quietly, to nudge you, and to point the way forward.

Getting practice

Setting tasks around a subject like containment is very difficult, as unnecessarily containing anything can cause more problems than it is worth. But if such a need presents in this part of your training, then experiment and keep notes. If not, spend a little time researching examples of containment in mythology or stories, as they can often give you tremendous insight into different approaches over time and cultures.

Better to have the knowledge waiting in your mind, than having to scramble at the last minute for clues when you are in urgent need.

QUAREIA

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