



QUAREIA—THE ADEPT

Module VIII—Mediation of Power

Lesson 7: Right and Left Power

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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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Lesson 7: Right and Left Power

You have done a great deal of work to embed the power patterns within your arms and the directions, and you have also worked in different directional patterns to feel the difference between the flows. You have also mediated power between above and below, working through your whole body.

Now it is time to look practically at a specific, deep alignment in a bit of detail; one used as a base in a lot of magical and mystical patterns, and also the root of the magical terms ‘left hand path’ and ‘right hand path.’

In this lesson we will look at the more surface layers of the polarity, then we will move on to practical visionary ritual to help you begin to understand what lies underneath this polarity, what triggers it, what anchors it, and what it does in its more profound layer.

By looking at the more surface magical polarity, you will come to understand not only how the terminology of the Western magical paths came about, but also the power dynamics that underpin such erroneous labels. It will also bring to light why such paths have the problems they have when a polarised path is followed without full understanding.

The East Pattern with north–south power alignment

You have worked in various ways with this alignment, but from a balanced and holistic place where everything is balanced with everything else. However, the East Pattern has many layers, and it really serves the adept well to fully understand it, as it underpins so much modern magical practice.

You have looked at those layers of this dynamic which underpin certain magical patterns that also express in religions, and you have worked with it in ritual. Now we will look at it in a way which will shed a great deal of light on certain current magical issues in Western Magic.

In this structure, the front of the magician is always east, as opposed to the older system where it is south—what you normally work with. The right hand/side therefore has to do with the ‘up’ powers of the stars, future, and Divinity that must be reached out of substance. It is about conformity, restriction and ascetic practice with the intent to ‘ascend’ or join with Divinity out of substance.

Conversely, the left hand/side is about the ‘down’ powers: unrestriction, descending into the Divinity within substance to join with it and ‘become’ it without the ‘up’ element—a heterodox path that flows against accepted norms. Essentially it is a path of unravelling as opposed to restriction, and this is something we have looked at before.

These methods and concepts came to Western magic through eastern Tantric practices in Hinduism and Buddhism, and the east-facing system connected in well with the Abrahamic east-facing pattern. The left hand path is referred to in Tantra as *Vmcra*; the right hand path is referred to as *Dakira*.

Before we look at them in modern magical systems, let us have a closer look at the potential this pattern holds for an adept who wants to work with it according to necessity.

The deeper aspects

If you put these dynamics together with what you work with in your right/left power alignments, some interesting things come up. And by

investigating this, you begin to learn the deeper taproots of such power dynamics, and how the different layers can be put together.

If you think about the powers that you already work with in your right hand/direction—the powers of harvest, lantern, unravelling, and life restriction/scales—you have an overarching dynamic of ‘a knowledgeable death,’ i.e. going into death with everything and with a clear record of your evolution. If you add to this the dynamic of Dakira, then you will begin to realise that the concept and purpose of Dakira is to bring you to a point where the qualities we work with in the right hand are present.

Tantra works with this in Dakira by rejecting what is in the left hand. By rejecting the body, the ancestors, the land, the urges of the body, and instead focusing on the future of the soul, its ascent to Divinity, and the practice of asceticism, the aspirant hopes to shed all impurity and become radiant in Divine light.

Vmcra reverses this: the body and its urges are explored and death, the Underworld, and all its destructive powers are investigated and joined with. All impurity is revelled in, and the restrictions of the right hand are rejected. Through ‘impurity’ the practitioner seeks the destructive element of Divinity within.

If you think about the powers that you work with in the left hand/direction—the Limiter, the path ahead, the air that breathes life into substance, the Grindstone of life, and the path ahead—then you will see an overarching dynamic of evolution within life: the boundaries that create tension which allows life to exist within a vessel. If you then add the dynamic of Vmcra, you will begin to realise that the concept and purpose of Vmcra is to trigger evolution within substance/life.

A magician trained similarly to a Quareia adept will see how these Eastern power systems can sit as a polarised layer atop what they already work with, and how, drawn together, they can create a very interesting dynamic where power polarisations happen on both sides. Each hand holds a battery with negative and positive polarity. In Quareia we do this by working the two sides together in balance with the fulcrum in the centre: the body becomes one battery.

If the two opposing polarities of Vmcra and Dakira are worked with alone, and without deeper layering, then they push each other away, and you get dissolution instead of evolution. They are like two magnets that push each other away until the practitioner learns to turn them around so that they are drawn together.

Tantra is a complex system with many different layers. When you dig deeply into it, below and beyond its surface presentations, then you find complex weaves of power polarity where each polarity is joined with the other, and that combination itself is nestled in a polarised pattern to make a heady layer of magic.

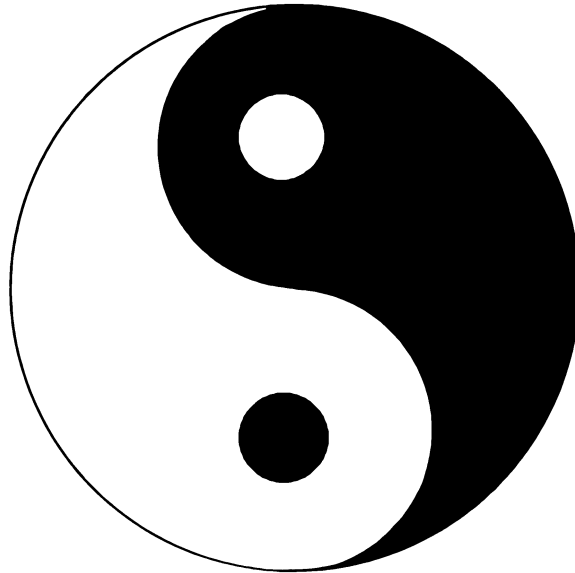


Figure 1: Yin-Yang symbol

However, if these deeply polarised dynamics are worked with only on their surface layers then they can create a very unbalanced pattern that, if the practitioner does not dig deeply enough, can lock them down. This happens both in Eastern Tantric practice and in Western magic. It is a filtering method: those unwilling or unable to evolve beyond the surface polarisation of power will get locked in a dead end of practice, while those who recognise what is happening and work deeper, towards evolution, will find these complex interchanging patterns and polarities within their practice.

Don't forget, the word *Tantra* in Sanskrit means *weave* or *to weave*. Exactly what this system does: it either triggers you out of the work, locks you in an endless cycle that goes nowhere, or moves you deeper into the constantly expanding layers of Divine consciousness, where you find your place within the weave. Remember viewing the pattern from the Inner Temple threshold? That ever-expanding pattern is what the weave of Tantra is about.

Weaving polarities

This should open up a vista for you in your studies where you begin to realise that the polarisations and tensions within the directional powers you work with can be layered upon with opposing dynamics, where you essentially have a huge part of the magical energetic pattern focused down into one 'hand' or direction.

When both sides, both hands, each hold the complexity of these relationships with power, and the fulcrum is still held solid within, then you have a very powerful, deep magical weave that you can not only work from but evolve within.

Everything comes into the centre and is joined within. The dynamics of restriction and unravelling, of ascent and descent, of past and future, of Divinity within substance and Divinity remote—all are all pulled together within the magician. You mirror the universe. We will look at this again in the practical work.

But before we get to that, let us look at how this Tantric pattern found its way into modern magic.

Tantra and Western magic

In the nineteenth century the West was fascinated by anything 'Eastern,' and that included Hinduism and Buddhism. These religions were investigated by magical practitioners and absorbed into Western practice in various ways, most famously by Aleister Crowley in the early twentieth century.

As with any deep and complex practice, the surface layers of the polarisation were learned from Eastern practitioners willing to teach Westerners and absorbed into the practice and consciousness of Western magicians. The more complex layers, however, never really reached Western minds except in a few isolated instances. The more surface presentations of the polarities then became a cornerstone of reference for Western magic: 'left hand path' and 'right hand path.'

A lot of modern magicians do not understand where these terms and concepts come from, nor what lies underneath them. Instead the surface

layer becomes the defining structure that they adhere to. This of course creates a pattern with shallow roots, which combined with a Christian cultural mindset becomes all the more extreme. Also remember that on the surface, left hand/right hand is a pattern of polarisation where each side pushes away from the other.

So these days we see one set of magical schools/systems who teach a very defined, moralistic, and often religious path with Christian underpinnings in its ethos, and the definition of being a 'right hand path' as its flag. We see this in systems like the Golden Dawn and its offshoots, the Rosicrucian lines, Hermetic Western Kabbalah, the Society of the Inner Light, and so forth.

In total opposition to this we see another set of magical schools and systems that are irreligious, amoral, and with very loose boundaries. We see this in the Luciferian stream, the Satanic churches, the Setian and Typhonian streams, and so forth.

I am generalising quite a bit here, as magic in the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries has by now become a broad mass of very different magical paths as people develop, experiment, and so forth. But the two defining major trunks of the Western magical tree are the right and left hand paths, from which many branches have grown.

All systems, as they develop, expand, and bump up against others, solidify and often become more and more fundamentalist in their thinking. This tightens their polarity, which tightens the identity of their magic and the way that their practitioners approach it. The polarisations of power either become more extreme or dissolve into psychology.

So think about it. You have a modern magical path that identifies itself as following the right hand path, with a religious element that entrenches that right hand dynamic, and which is often run in such a way that deviation from that path is considered a dereliction. Or you have a left hand path magical identity where mostly anything goes, and the practitioner eventually finds themselves adrift, searching for structure and hierarchy. You can imagine the car crashes on the horizon.

So what does all this mean for you as an adept? As you progress and mature, your curiosity and need for a wide repertoire of magic will cause you to look far and wide and investigate various forms of magic to expand your skills, knowledge, and experience. If you are aware of these surface polarity traps then you can avoid them and not get sucked into the massive imbalances that a lot of these systems have inherently built into them.

The best way to see these polarity traps in action is to look at the internet chatter of practitioners from polarised systems. You will spot the infighting, degeneration, and egotistical strutting on both sides.

This does not mean that everyone in a polarised system will degenerate in such a way. A fair percentage of those who go through polarised training and practice eventually spot their imbalances and shift their practice or focus to address them; but it is a hard, painful road to move away from ones roots once they are established. It is also far more likely for a magician to become trapped and bound up/shut down if they follow a heavily polarised path for long enough.

Let us now look more deeply at condensing and layering polarised powers and dynamics, and how this works practically for the magician. Let us assume that the adept needs to draw all the polarities in layers into a tight orbit around the fulcrum. Once this is done, a great deal of magical tension and power is held in the body that can then be released. Such a release, with this sort of a power build-up, is usually used only to propel the magician forward on their path, or when they are about to undertake a massive working that needs a lot of power and is likely to be a long-term unfolding of patterns, dynamics, and actions.

The first layer is the direction the magician faces. Instead of south/-future, the magician faces east. The adept thus becomes the ultimate vessel into which the breath is breathed from the east. They start by mirroring the universe and “facing their maker.” The adept’s body, that receives the breath, is also the body of the land, of the planet, the solar system, and so forth. The body is all matter that is manifest and finite, and their spirit is breathed into this vessel by Divinity—the creation of the universe.

On the right hand side of the adept is the south, the stars, Divinity out of substance, the future path governed by time, and all the possibilities of experience that future patterns hold. The path from east to south is limited due to the power of the Limiter in the bridge of southeast, and thus a time span is formed—the life is given measure.

The surface presentation of the right hand path dynamic is limitation, constriction, and adherence to the well-worn magical path of discipline that has been trodden for generations. This connects with the bridge of southeast that measures and upholds a lifespan and a life path. The limitation of the southeast bridge, and of the magical system, echo one another. If the magical system is too limiting, the bridge becomes too narrow.

The deeper dynamic of the right hand is the threshed harvest, the seeds for the future, the measure of past actions, and the light of wisdom gained from experience. This harvest is both from the past and defines the future, and ultimately defines how the adept will experience life and death. Behind the right shoulder is the sword that guards the adept and will strike them if they move too far out of balance in their choice of actions: it is the darkness of ignorance and the darkness of death.

The deepest dynamic of the right is the freedom to make one's own choices, to accept no outside boundaries, and ultimately the dynamic of dissolution and death.

If the adept does not take up balanced self-limitation as a result of their direct experiences and initiate self-imposed boundaries that are balanced and not too narrow, then the power of the southeast bridge and the angelic sword become dominant and fate will do this for them. The bridge narrows, which narrows their fate. This results in dogmatic power around the adept, and prevents their internal evolution and maturity. It also locks down the southeast bridge access for magical and mystical walking into the future, in evolution, and ultimately, into the stars.

On the left hand side, in the left hand path is the Underworld, the sleeping dead, the ancestors, the body, sex, the planetary substance, no limitation, and learning through immersion without restriction. The deeper layer is the Limiter within the arm of the adept, or the Limiter as the sword, the Grindstone, and the angelic light that lights the way into the future: the light of the stars, of Divine guidance. Note that the Limiter/sword is wielded by the adept, not the angelic power, and the light is angelic and not held by the adept—on the right hand side this is reversed.

The adept partakes of the power of the left, of immersion, but self-limits that power through the action of the Limiter engaged by the magician. Remember the hosepipe/power example in a previous lesson this module? The Limiter is the pressure put on the hose pipe so that the power can flow at the right speed and distance—life. This is done by the adept themselves, not by imposed angelic, structural, or magical limitation. The power comes from the north, over the northeast bridge—the seed potential for life—and is measured and limited by the Limiter so that it fits over the southeast bridge into life, the future, the stars, and so forth.

The left hand path seeks life and death expression through the body, within the body, within fate, time, bloodlines, and the senses. It seeks the Divine within substance. The right hand path seeks ascent away

from the body, a passage into the stars, and union with Divinity out of substance. If the left hand dynamic is explored in an unbalanced way then it traps the spirit in a constant cycle of rebirth, as the spirit constantly seeks expression within the body. If it really goes too far then the spirit becomes sealed in the Underworld, unable to evolve or express itself.

If the right hand path dynamic is explored in an unbalanced way then the adept rejects the body, the universe, and life, and fails to express through physicality. This blocks the evolution of their spirit and mind through lack of direct experience, which leaves a poor harvest in the right hand, thus condemning the spirit to the same fate as the left hand path extreme: endless cycles of rebirth or being sealed in the Underworld. Both path extremes end up in the same way.

But if the adept pulls all these strands together within them then all the different polarities and dynamics balance out: they orbit in constant motion around the adept, who remains solid in the fulcrum, in the stillness and silence within.

On a practical level this produces an individual that never fits neatly into any magical or mystical definition. They are often a mass of contradictions. They work with light and dark, creation and destruction, limitation and unravelling. They are both in the stars and in the Underworld, in the body and in the spirit, and partake fully of the physical world while not being dominated by it. And when they intentionally pull all these orbiting powers into weaves of action, then they become a mirror of universal power: strong, rooted, and yet—because they have no overarching, defined, polarised quality—they are easily invisible and overlooked.

I hope all this made some sense to you, as it is a very difficult set of dynamics to put into words in a way that can be understood. The following practical work gets right underneath all the surface dynamics to what lies underneath, hidden, and where all these polarised dynamics come from.

It is a working that embeds the hidden dynamics within you and brings them up to the surface in a way that combines them into action. It works in a figure-of-eight loop where you touch the depths, return to the centre, and journey back out to the depths again.

Bringing the universe together

This visionary ritual brings all the layers together within you. By doing it, and paying attention to the subsequent flashes of inspiration that surface in the days and weeks following the ritual, you will learn a great deal; not only about what it does for you as an individual adept, but also how and when it may be necessary to perform this deeply magical and mystical act.

Superficially this act embeds you and anchors you deeply within your fate so that it cannot be manipulated, but on a deeper level it draws you ever closer to the connection with and understanding of your place within the universe, and the universe within you as a living being. It also connects you to a deeper layer of contact than you are used to working with—and at this level it becomes hard to discern or identify exactly who is connecting with you. It reaches into the very deep angelic, Divine, and collective human consciousnesses that are all heavily interwoven and dependent on each other. For this there is no name, just the feeling of contact.

Set up your magical space. All the ritual focus will be on the eastern altar. On the east altar place your vessel in front of the candle. To the left of the candle place a glass of wine, and to the right, place a glass of water. On the right, in front of the water, place a chunk of bread. On the floor, to the right, place the stone shield where you can place your foot on it. Prop your staff to the left of the altar.

Before you start the work, go and ritually bathe and put on clean clothing. Anoint your forehead and the soles of your feet with frankincense oil, and burn frankincense resin in the space to prepare it for work. When you are ready, starting with the central altar candle, hold a taper over the central candle and say:

“Let there be light.”

Light the candle flame. Stand in stillness and silence until it fills you. Touch the taper to the central light and take it to the east. Hold the taper over the candle, and say:

“Let the breath be awakened.”

Stand in silence. In your mind, see the air gap in the Inner Temple appear. You will be working in both places at once. When you have a good sense of being in the Inner Temple and of its air gap, light the candle, and say:

“The breath is awakened.”

Do not blow out the taper. Bow to the direction and go to the south with the taper still lit.

Hold the taper over the candle in the south and say:

“I am of the stars and I seek passage to the stars.”

Light the candle and see the south wall of the Inner Temple. See the wall fall away and the path beyond appear. Bow to the direction and, without blowing the taper out, turn and walk to the central altar.

Bow to the central altar. Go around it to the west side, bypass the western altar, and continue straight to the north. Hold the taper over the north candle and say:

“I am of the earth, and I seek passage into the belly of the earth.”

Light the candle. See the north wall of the Inner Temple before you. Through the wall you will see the stone stairs reaching down into the depths of the earth. Bow to the direction and return to the east altar.

Stand with your eyes closed. See the Inner Temple surrounding you. See the Book of Knowledge before you on the Inner Temple east altar, and see the bread, wine, vessel, and candle on your physical altar. Be aware that they all inhabit the same space. Be aware of the south and north altars to your sides in the Inner Temple, and of the central inner altar behind you, with the flame rising from the body of the altar in its working position.

Facing the air gap, hold out your left hand and arm to the side of you. Say:

“My left hand holds my life in substance, my fate measure of life; it holds my Limiter that governs my actions. And my left

hand holds my staff, my companion who stays with me as I walk the path.”

Touch your staff with your left hand to acknowledge it.

Hold out your right hand and arm to the side. Say:

“My right hand holds my life in the stars, my harvest, my measure of death; and it holds the lantern of my wisdom that guides my actions. My right foot is on the Stone at the Centre of All Things, the deep anchor within the earth, my Threshing Floor, my mother, and the Stone that forges my path that I walk on, the future path defined by my past and present actions.

Place your right foot up to the stone so that it touches the stone.

Now still yourself. Close your eyes. See yourself standing in the Inner Temple. Slowly see the walls of the temple fall away until you are surrounded by stars. Observe as the stars slowly withdraw, until you are standing in nothing. Feel the nothing flow into you and dissolve your form. You have no shape, no light, no body, and you make no sound or movement. You are the darkness within the darkness.

When you are ready, say:

“I am the Void in the centre, the nothing from which all comes. I am the darkness. I have always been, and will always be. Let there be light.”

See a light shine over your left shoulder from the angelic consciousness behind you. See it light a path that shines through the air gap in the Inner Temple. Watch the light from behind you flow through the air gap, and listen as you hear a wind approaching. You feel the wind on your face and you hear a sound coming towards you.

The light flowing through the air gap is reflected back and forms a path of light from beyond the air gap, flowing through it. The light falls on you, lighting up the darkness. A wind blows in your face and you take in a breath—the first breath. As you breathe in, your centre lights up and you fill with light. Within the light in your centre is a small orb of darkness: the eternal stillness.

Still keeping your eyes closed and maintaining the building vision of the Inner Temple, fold your right hand across your chest. Say:

“I come from the stars and flow into the earth.”

Fold your left arm across your right arm. Say:

“I am in the earth and I will flow to the stars.”

Keeping both arms crossed across your chest, say:

“I am of the stars and the earth. I flow into this body. I am the stars within the earth; the earth within the stars.”

Drop your arms, both physically and in vision. Then hold out your left hand to the side while maintaining your presence in the Inner Temple.

Lift your left arm to the side and open your hand, palm up. A presence appears at your left side and cups a hand under yours. Another hand is placed over your eyes. A voice whispers in your ear, “see.”

Turn your face to your left hand, and see different aspects of your life playing out: decisions made, actions done, and your reactions to these various aspects of your past. The voice says, “look deeper.”

You look beyond the actions playing out and see your decisions and actions, and events triggered by you forming new patterns that try to connect with the foundation pattern of your life at that time.

You see how rebellions, emotive actions, difficult choices, and impulsive actions create new, small patterns that try to weave into your overall pattern. When they do connect, they bring change to the whole fate pattern and new power spots appear. Some try to connect, but their shape is not in harmony with your overall pattern, and any connection is haphazard; it creates a jarring aspect to the pattern. Others cannot connect at all, and fall away. Watch carefully as your fate pattern, playing out in your left hand, constantly shifts and changes.

As it changes, new lights appear around it. Some appear to feed the pattern and strengthen it; others draw power from the pattern and

weaken it. Your choices and actions either strengthen, uphold, or weaken your pattern. The voice whispers, “absorb.”

Make a conscious decision to absorb the constantly-changing pattern with all its harmonics and chaos. Bring your left hand to your centre and place it there. The pattern flows into your centre. You feel the emotions that you experienced when you made decisions, took actions, or reacted to something new in your life. Some of them feel harmonic to you, even if they were difficult emotions, and others do not, even if they were happy emotions. Your centre feels very active as you process past events, and at times you feel part of it grinding on you like sand in your shoe, as if part of it does not belong with you or does not serve a purpose. The voice says, “thresh.”

Feel the pattern leave your centre and go to the stone by your right foot. Physically, and in vision, place your foot on the stone. Turn your right foot so that it grinds on the stone. Focus on the parts that feel like they do not belong with you or no longer serve a purpose. Your foot grows hot as power flows through it.

When you feel that all which had to leave you has gone, keep your foot over what is left. A wind blows from the east, and sweeps away all that does not belong on the stone.

The voice says, “weigh.” Focus on what is left on the stone and draw it up in your right hand. As you draw it up, hold your right hand up, both in vision and physically, to receive it. It is heavy. All that you have experienced, all the decisions, actions, and events that you triggered that served a purpose to move you forward and evolve you, are held in your right hand. The voice says, “evolve.”

Take the right hand, both physically and in vision, and join it in front of you with your left hand. All your experiences, good and bad, that served a purpose for you, that you have learned from, are passed from your right hand to your left hand, and back from your left hand to your right hand, until everything settles into a perfect balance between the two.

The voice says, “look.” Open your hands and look down in vision. Your hands have vanished, replaced by the two dishes of the scales. In the left hand dish of the scales are *triggers*—swirling energy that takes no defined form but is highly active, full of potential. In the right dish of the scales are defined shapes that still move, but are more solid and formed: the *results*, the formed evolution and wisdom born out of your triggers and subsequent actions.

The voice says, “look deeper.” As you look deeper, the dishes vanish and are replaced by two turning Wheels, one in each hand. One is dark with a centre of very bright light, and the other is light with a centre of total darkness. Death within life; life within death.

The voice says, “look deeper again.” Put your hands together, joining the two Wheels to each other, then open your hands again while keeping them together, side by side, touching.

In the cup of your hands is a mass of stars, all orbiting and swirling: the universe in your hands. The voice says, “look up.” Keeping your hands where they are, you look up to see the air gap. As you look at the gap you can see through it. You see many beautiful stars and solar systems...the Milky Way. The wind passes over and through these stars and blows gently on your face. Instinctively you blow over the stars in your hands.

The voice says, “now let go.” Open your hands. The stars drift from your hands up to the ceiling of the Inner Temple. The stars on the ceiling of the temple spring to life and shine brightly. The walls begin to shine with stars, with solar systems, all moving, and your stars join with them.

The voice says, “feel.” Still yourself and feel into the temple filled with stars. As you become very still, you feel that each star, each solar system and cluster, draws on you and touches you. As it touches you, you become aware of threads flowing from the stars to you, and from you to the stars.

Through these threads you feel impulse, emotion, and urge. One group of stars wants you to move towards them: they pull on you through their threads. While standing still physically, allow your body in vision to be pulled by the stars.

You move away from the east altar and follow the pull. More stars pull on you from different directions, until thousands of threads are pulling on you in all directions. You move this way and that, dancing your way around the temple to the pull of the stars, until you feel that you have no control, and that you are a mere puppet.

Once you get that feeling of being pulled with no control, then feel the stillness within you. As you feel the stillness, you feel that some threads are dark and others are light. Working on instinct, pull back on an equal measure of light and dark threads, making them follow your lead as you move around the Inner Temple space. Use your arms to weave them in light and dark braids or patterns as you move. Just try to keep a balance

of light and dark. Any threads that pull you away from the weaving, disconnect them from your centre.

As you weave, a powerful presence appears in the south and builds slowly. The presence watches you weave. As it forms a body and face, you recognise the presence as the Weaver, the goddess who reaches her arms down to you to work with you in power weaving.

Keep weaving and moving as she watches. At some point she will look up and point. Look up. You see that the stars connected to the threads you are weaving have formed themselves into constellations: you are forming your fate, your evolution. The goddess smiles.

The voice says, “understand.” Stop moving and draw your two arms into your body, crossing them over your chest. The threads to the constellations that you have woven make a pattern on your chest as you bring them into your centre. All the stars not connected to you dim, and those connected to you brighten and form constellations that revolve around you in an orbit.

The voice says, “speak the words of knowledge.” From where you are in the Inner Temple, go to the east altar once more and look at the Book of Knowledge. The constellations of the stars revolve around you and pull on you, but you also pull on them. Your power and their power are in equal measure, and form a tension within and around you.

Open the book and breathe across it. Say across the book:

“I experience so I may evolve, I evolve so that I may experience.”

The words settle on the pages of the book. Everything around you falls silent. The stars vanish, and then the temple fades and you find yourself back in your work space, before the altar.

Before you open your eyes, feel into the constellations that still rotate around you in a constant orbit. You can feel their pull on you and your pull on them, keeping the powers in check. You use their pull to create tension on the threads so that you can weave them and move them around.

Now open your eyes and look at the east altar before you. You are aware of a presence in the room on the other side of the east altar, a presence there to witness and uphold, and that mirrors your universe of stars back to you. Be still in that presence until you are ready to continue.

Pick up the glass of wine in your left hand and hold it up. Say:

“This is the blood of life, the blood that evolves through experiences, the blood that holds knowledge of life. This is my blood.”

Pour the wine into your vessel until it is half full. Put down the wine, and with your right hand pick up the glass of water and hold it up. Say:

“This is the water of the River of Death, the water that holds knowledge of my harvest, it is my tears.”

Pour the water into your vessel until it is full. It should now contain equal parts water and wine.

Pick up the bread and hold it up with both hands. Say:

“This is the fruit of the harvest of life and death, the body of the transformed life that contains and sustains me. This is my flesh.”

Dip the bread in the water and wine in the vessel, and eat it. Feel the bread strengthen you and give you the ballast of life within a body.

Pick up the vessel and say:

“This is the blood of my life and the water of my death in equal measure. May it nourish my life with wisdom, and withhold my thirst in death.”

Drink all the fluid and put the vessel down. Feel the fluid flow through you, awakening you and nourishing you.

The presence before you speaks: “May your spirit live, may you spend millions of years, standing with your face to the north wind, your eyes beholding happiness.”

Pick up your staff with your left hand. Feel the pattern of the stars react to the power of the staff. Kneel with your forehead on your staff. Place your right hand across your chest on the pattern of stars on and within you. Feel their power on you and all around you. Feel their

power resonate with the light of your lantern in your right hand. Hold up your right hand and see the constellations of stars orbiting within the light of your lantern. Turn your palm so that the presence behind the east altar can see that the stars and your lantern sit well together and are compatible.

The presence shows you a movement: right hand raised, palm facing away from you, causes the stars to affect what is before you. Right hand on the pattern of stars on your chest triggers the stars to affect what is within you and what surrounds you: you are the centre of the orbit of these powers.

Now place your right hand over your left hand which is holding your staff. The power of the stars informs your path ahead: the wisdom you draw from your work with the stars, and from your experiences/harvest, help you make choices, to react, and to be inspired for action for the future.

Stand up and bow to the east and the presence. Take a step back, and bow again. Turn, and go to the central flame.

Be aware of the east behind you, the southern powers to your left, and the northern powers to your right. Facing west, you face the gates of mortality, with the east wind flowing through you from behind you.

Hold out your left hand with the staff to your side: the left hand of life within substance, the serpents of the staff who teach and guide, and the hand that triggers are all pointing to the south gate—the path ahead, the future in life.

Hold out your right hand to your side: the right hand of the stars and lantern, the sum total of your fate, the hand of wisdom and experience, and the hand that weighs is pointing to the north gate—the path of the past, the Underworld, and death.

Your right hand draws from the deep well of past and ancestral experience. Your left hand holds the future and your grip on life. Bring your left hand with the staff into your centre and rest the staff on your chest, where the stars have imprinted their pattern of fate. Place your right hand over your left to guide your future with wisdom. Bow to the centre, take a step back, bow again, and circle the central altar before going to the south, keeping your staff to your chest and your right hand over it.

Go and stand before the south altar in silence and wait. When the trigger happens—which may be a feeling, a sound, or a presence—open

your arms up to the sides, your staff held to your left, and feel the star-pattern in your chest, and the stars in your right hand, in your lantern, start to glow with power.

As they do, you become aware of those same stars above you, in space, resonating with the patterns within you and all around you. As the harmony builds, so does the power. Be aware of the path ahead, beyond the south altar, opening right up. The fate of that path for you becomes clear to you. Anything or anyone trying to limit it, interfere with it, or shut it down, is blown away as if dust: a great wind flows from behind you, through you, and into the path ahead, carrying the power of your fate and embedding it on the path. Your path ahead is clear, strong, and healthy.

Take one step forward with your left foot and bang the bottom of the staff on the floor in one loud beat. The sides of the path ahead become lined by many different beings that appear one by one: these are beings and powers that you have helped along the way in your training, and now they help you by guarding your future path from interference. So long as you do everything you can to protect yourself, stay magically clean, and deal with attacks, interference, and so forth to the best of your ability, then these beings will deal with what you cannot.

Bow to them, thank them, and take a step back. Bow again. The path vanishes back into the mists and the vision fades. Lean your staff against the left side of the altar, circle the room a few times, then sit to meditate for a few minutes. Just soak up the power in the room and go back over in your mind what you have just done.

When you are ready, get back up and close the gates, put out the lights, and put everything away. Go and have a sleep, as the work you have just done can run very deep, and your consciousness will need time to process it without distraction.

Analysis

I will not analyse this ritual/vision in any depth, as it has many different layers and it is important for you to experience and understand the layer or layers that make themselves apparent to you both as you do it and afterwards. However, here is an outline of the key power elements involved: creation and the seeking of life, polarity, then union of polarity,

becoming the scales, becoming the Weaver, anchoring in life, and finally forging the path ahead.

The depth of the power polarities are the left which triggers evolution, and the right which processes those triggers and feeds back the understanding of the evolution to the left to forge ahead in gnosis. That is the deep foundation of the right–left polarity powers. Everything else sits on those foundations.

If you look back to the very first ritual pattern you learned, in Apprentice Module I Lesson 4, you will see how the foundations for this were laid right at the beginning of your training; and if you do that very early, short ritual again, but this time with your Adept understanding, then you will realise that it was a very short, condensed surface layer of the ritual you have just done. Now that you have the full ritual understanding within you from the work you have just done, redoing that early beginner ritual will act as a trigger for this whole ritual again. Think about how and why you could use that simple technique once the full visionary ritual is embedded within you.

This ritual and vision all about the tensions of polarity, power, and creation/destruction within you and all around you, and how to connect and absorb that as an adept to achieve certain things. Once you have done this ritual and vision, then the more you think about it, and especially if you repeat it at some point, you will gain an ever-deepening understanding of what is hidden in those layers and what the ritual triggers, both within you and to everything around you.

There are also some expansions for this work: tapping into the three hundred and sixty spirits that ring the planet, tapping into the Fates, the Weaver, the root Divine powers of creation and destruction, the deity patterns of life and death, and so on. You will very likely revisit this work at different times in the future, and maybe adjust it, or work with only part of it, depending on what you are trying to achieve.

Take notes for yourself, but this work is deeply personal, so is not work that a mentor would ask to see notes on—it is between you and the universe. What would be helpful for your learning and development is to step back and look at its depths, of what is going on at a fundamental level, and then to think about how that depth can be brought up to the surface in magic, or in practical application.

Just tread thoughtfully and sensibly, as this has deep taproots, and what you do with it will affect you on many different levels, and sometimes for years to come. But at the same time it is as natural as breathing, and

not something to be feared, but simply respected, and worked with intelligently.

Before you finish this lesson, read this quote from Eliphas Levi on what it is to be a magician.

He looks on the wicked as invalids whom one must pity and cure; the world, with its errors and vices, is to him God's hospital, and he wishes to serve in it.

They are without fears and without desires, dominated by no falsehood, sharing no error, loving without illusion, suffering without impatience, reposing in the quietude of eternal thought. A Magus cannot be ignorant, for magic implies superiority, mastership, majority, and majority signifies emancipation by knowledge.

The Magus welcomes pleasure, accepts wealth, deserves honour, but is never the slave of one of them; he knows how to be poor, to abstain, and to suffer; he endures oblivion willingly because he is lord of his own happiness, and expects or fears nothing from the caprice of fortune. He can love without being beloved; he can create imperishable treasures, and exalt himself above the level of honours or the prizes of the lottery.

He possesses that which he seeks, namely, profound peace. He regrets nothing which must end, but remembers with satisfaction that he has met with good in all. His hope is a certitude, for he knows that good is eternal and evil transitory.

He enjoys solitude, but does not fly the society of man; he is a child with children, joyous with the young, staid with the old, patient with the foolish, happy with the wise.

He smiles with all who smile, and mourns with all who weep; applauding strength, he is yet indulgent to weakness; offending no one, he has himself no need to pardon, for he never thinks himself offended; he pities those who misconceive him, and seeks an opportunity to serve them; by the force of kindness only does he avenge himself on the ungrateful.

Judge not; speak hardly at all; love and act.

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