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## QUAREIA—THE INITIATE

### Module III—Power Dynamics of Creation, Part II

#### Lesson 1: The Deeper Power of Restriction

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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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### Module III—Power Dynamics of Creation, Part II

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#### *Introduction to Module Three*

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In the apprentice section relating to this subject, you looked at the powers and beings involved in the process of creation from a magical perspective. We started to look at this deeply powerful process without the usual names and terms that are attributed to these powers and beings. All Kabbalistic and other magical, mystical names were removed: instead, the beings and powers were referred to by what they do.

This was done because there is so much misunderstanding, fantasy, and psychobabble that has developed around these powers, which leads to further misunderstandings and confusion. Also we are looking at these powers without those constructs, so that we can learn about and observe them without preconceived ideas. This way we do not fall into the trap of dipping into religions and systems that are not of our own genuine experience.

Though this subject matter can be thought of as more the realm of mystics than magicians, it is vitally important to know how the creation dynamic works from an inner perspective because the pattern is inherent in all creation, and becomes very active when magic is engaged. Every time you instigate a magical act the deeper dynamics of creation are triggered in one way or another: you are learning the ‘software coding’ of magic.

In the last module on creation you learned about the powers<sup>1</sup> that are active and perceptible to humans, beings that operate closely with humanity. This is the lowest orbit of creative power and also the one most apparent in magic. In this module we will move closer in and look at the next layer of angelic powers, ones that work deep in the inner worlds in the constant dance of creation and destruction.

These angelic powers are the ‘engines’ behind the inner realms, the Inner Desert, and the creative life process. They are not angels that can be connected with, and they have little if any human connection: they are the bigger guys who deal with the creation of all life, and though we attempt to put personalities on them, they are impersonal powers that are mirrored in every energetic dynamic in the physical world. As such, we approach these powers as inherent forces, not as angels we can talk to or observe.

As magicians we engage these forces in long-term ritual projects, exorcism, healing, and construction: we work with them as power forces, not as inner contacts. We are too small and they are too big for us to really connect with them as being to being. It would be like a human trying to be aware of every tiny insect under their feet as they walk through a field: the difference in consciousness is that great.

We will start with the deep power of restriction and through each lesson we will inch a bit deeper into the inner realm and the Inner Desert so that you gain a strong understanding of these powers. Once you understand them, you can then work with them later in your initiate work and also more powerfully as an adept.

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<sup>1</sup>Angelic.

## *The Power of Restriction*

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The power of Restriction is a necessary brake for creation. It is one half of two opposing powers. Between them, and with the fulcrum in the middle, they keep the deeper scales of creation and destruction balanced.

Whenever you have a dynamic of creation/birth, there must also be a restriction to ensure that limitless growth does not occur, as such growth in a limited world is very destructive.

When we looked at the lowest expression of creation, we looked at a power called the Unraveller. We learned that it operates through a specific dynamic: either humans mirror creation and learn their own self-restriction, or they unravel and are caught by Restriction that takes their life out of circulation.

This dynamic is not exclusive to humanity: it flows through all creatures, all civilisations, and all patterns. One aspect of Restriction is the cull mechanism: when something overgrows or overpopulates, the cull mechanism starts to kick in. This is the lowest octave of this particular power of Restriction.

The deeper aspect of Restriction is that it limits the creative forging of new paths into life by the Light Bearer. As the Light Bearer carries the Divine Spark on its quest for physical manifestation, it is also the dynamic of the limitless, timeless, and ever-expanding pulse of creative power. Such limitless conscious power cannot take physical form on its own, as there is no vessel large enough to contain it.

The power of Restriction counteracts that quest for a limitless power to be manifest: it restricts that impulse. It limits the amount of creative power and triggers a process that will create a pattern strong enough—a vessel—to contain Divine power. That strong vessel is the physical realm.

Think of Restriction as a large, slowly spinning power that gathers up the souls of the dead and contains or imprisons them. Through its process of slow spinning, along with its natural function of holding, it slows down anything in its orbit.

This power of Restriction also has an action that is very visible in the inner realms, one that can instantly be recognised by magicians. It is

an action that is profound, yet it is also something we can observe and consider as magicians: it is the power of Divine Binding or imprisoning.

When something no longer needs to be or should be manifest, it is bound by the power of Restriction. Magicians can observe this in inner vision in a variety of ways. Beings<sup>2</sup> that have physically manifested on earth but no longer have a place there or in the inner realms<sup>3</sup> are bound into the land, where they sink into the Underworld. Eventually they sink deep down into the Abyss and are held there.

Beings that never manifested physically, particularly angelic beings, are bound in the Desert, or upon the present surface of the land, or both. This is something that you will observe for yourself as a magician, and it is also something that you really need to know about.

Where a being has been bound is very important to a magician: where the being is bound will tell you if it is in a temporary holding pattern or if it has been put to sleep.

If the being is restricted in the Abyss, then unless someone powerful enough magically releases it, it is safe to say that it will stay down the Abyss.

If the being is restricted in the land, then it is waiting: the inner powers bind the being into a land feature where it will stay in restriction until its time comes to be released. You have already looked at this in terms of angelic beings bound in rivers and mountains, waiting to be released. If they are bound in land features, then they have been active before and will be active again.

If the being is bound in the Inner Desert, an aspect of the inner realm, then it has as yet not been fully active in the physical world, but it will be at some point. Often the beings bound in the Desert<sup>4</sup> are creative in their impulse, but their unfettered creation brings destruction.<sup>5</sup>

You may also come across very destructive beings held in the Desert: they too will be held there until it is time to do their job.

Quite a few different ancient texts talk about this process, and again it is something you have already looked at in your research. Essentially

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<sup>2</sup>Human, animal, deity, spirit, dinosaur!

<sup>3</sup>Which always has an aspect of the future.

<sup>4</sup>Usually angelic, sometimes deities.

<sup>5</sup>Through too much creation.

you learn these various dynamics and aspects in order to recognise them in deep vision so you know not to interfere with them.

If you look back over your work with Egyptian texts and the Scales, you will also see parallels: just as the Scales work with humanity, the deeper scales work with creation. The power of Restriction is one dish of those scales.

This is the big picture of how the power of Restriction works in the process of creation. But, like all other power dynamics, it has many different aspects and levels that are all part and parcel of the power of Restriction. It is these many different aspects that magicians become aware of in their work. To work with such powers requires you to understand fully the relevant counterpoint powers in order for you to keep a power balance as you work. To understand this, let us look at the more magical aspects of this power of Restriction and how it is worked with in magic.

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## *Binding*

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When magicians use bindings, they are consciously or unconsciously drawing on the power of Restriction in their work. Tapping into such power unconsciously and without thought is how magicians often get themselves into a mess, or end up unintentionally doing untold damage.

Simple folk binding spells are unlikely to have any great pull on this power simply by nature of the magic used. But once a ritual magician who also works in vision begins to use such methods, they would be wise to know what they are actually doing, working with, and why, before they dive into it.

Magicians love binding things: it's that simple. They love to bend and bind power to 'their will,' to bind things or people whom they dislike, and to bind beings or people whom they personally perceive as being 'wrong.'

Then, hopefully, they eventually grow up...usually as the result of bitter experience. Either they leave magic alone altogether,<sup>6</sup> they slowly degenerate, or they move on and learn a deeper layer of magic with more experience to guide them. So what goes wrong?

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<sup>6</sup>They are essentially bound out of magic.

You have already looked at the outer magical longer-term consequences of unbalanced binding in your apprentice work; now we will look at the various angles of the deeper dynamics from a power perspective.

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### *Triggering overgrowth and limiting growth*

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For sheer technical reasons, working with the power of Restriction when it is not needed or is unbalanced will trigger overgrowth. Something which appears unbalanced on its surface, when looked at deeper as a long-term dynamic, can often turn out to be part and parcel of a longer process of rebalancing. If this process is interfered with in the wrong way, it upsets the balance and everything spins out of control.

This is why short-term, conditional magic so often makes a situation worse in the long term, rather than better. And this dynamic runs through everything that lives: certain viruses may seem bad, but the virus can often restrict another illness or infection that left unchecked could wreak havoc on the body. Causing restriction in the wrong place or in the wrong thing can trigger, by nature of the fine balance of power, an overgrowth of something else.

But when there is an initial unbalanced overgrowth, the application of the power of Restriction can limit that overgrowth and restore balance. Most things in nature have the power of Restriction hard-wired into their species. When overgrowth happens, eventually the natural restriction kicks in and cuts back the overgrowth through death, disease, aggression and so forth.

As humans we have learned how to dodge around this in many different ways. Because we have done this for so long, we have forgotten about the positive aspect of restriction. As a result we now live in a world which is ripe for Divine Restriction. If nature, the expressive vessel of life, cannot cope or implement the restriction, then the deeper powers that flow out of the inner worlds will.

Taking this back to magic, the inherent dynamic of self-balance in nature is a powerful force that also expresses itself in magic. When Restriction is placed on a person or place that does not in truth need it, how it will affect the person or place largely depends on the level of magic used and the level of balance or imbalance that the place or person actually has, not what it is perceived to have.



If a person or place has as much balance as is possible in an imbalanced world, the magic will have little effect other than to cause a slight disturbance that is soon dissipated.

If the person or place has a bit of imbalance, the magic will trigger or speed up events that will bring about as much balance as is possible: it will engage the power of the Grindstone. The Grindstone power will flow into the place or person, which will manifest as a series of difficulties that polish them and move them towards balance, should they choose to engage with it.

If the person is pretty unbalanced and they have been bound by the power of Restriction, then the power of the Unraveller will trigger, and what happens next will depend on their ability to learn from experience. They will either totally unravel, or they will understand what is happening and make a decision to sort themselves out.

This would engage the Grindstone, which could happen by direct magical engagement or by fate triggering this power subtly. It is one of those life situations where someone feels that everything is falling apart around them and they make the decision to change their own choices and actions.

If they do not make that choice, they are slowly unravelled to the point of destruction, at which point the power of Restriction kicks in with full strength: the person is locked down in every way possible, either by their life circumstances or by illness.

Finally, if whatever is being bound by Restriction is truly out of balance and destructive, then the power of Restriction kicks in immediately and the person is bound out of action.

How these dynamics work is poorly understood in a lot of magical communities, and often a magician cannot understand why some of their applied magic works and other bits do not.

What they are not getting is that magic is essentially a force of nature: it flows through all the same dynamics that everything else in creation does. Magic cannot stop a force of nature, but it can trigger various dynamics like a catalyst.

Magic cannot be successful if it flies in the face of nature, simply because inappropriately applied magic is the same as using the wrong tool for a job: if it doesn't fit, it will not work.

So you cannot in truth fully bind something if it does not actually need binding. And how the magician approaches such an action will determine how that magical act affects them.

If the magician engages the power of Restriction in a forceful way when it is not needful,<sup>7</sup> then it is more likely that the magician will find themselves restricted than the intended target. All magic flows through the magician and affects the magician just as it affects the intended recipient. We have talked about this before.

When you apply magic you step into a stream of complex, alternating forces. Those forces simply seek their natural outlet. The magician directs the forces into the vessels (situations) that have need of that force. If the vessel is not in need of that force, then the force simply flows over the top and keeps seeking its vessel. If the magician is in actual need of that force and does not realise it, then they will become the vessel to be filled.

It is the simple, impersonal aspect of power seeking its vessel that so many magicians do not understand. The power of Restriction will not restrict something that does not need restricting, not because it has any thought or emotion or sense of judgement/compassion towards the intended victim, but because it cannot fill or hold a vessel that does not need it: the vessel is the wrong 'shape' for that power at that time.

If the magician feels that someone or something needs binding in order to restore balance, first they must look to themselves and ensure that they too do not need restriction. When they are clear about what they are doing and why, and where they stand in the picture of the dynamics, then releasing the power of Restriction will trigger a flow of power that seeks balance. If they release such power with the intention of it flowing into whatever vessel in the situation needs filling, then it will seek expression and fill whatever needs filling.

Just remember that all these deeper and more powerful creative forces will only flow where they are meant to flow. They can be triggered, they can be observed and worked with in your own development, and they can be worked with in powerful magic; but they will only do their own intended job. They will not pander to the imbalanced or immature thinking of a scorned magician. If as an adept you ever release such power and aim it at a person or place, and it is unsuccessful, it is most likely because the intended recipient in truth does not need restricting.

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<sup>7</sup>For example binding a person with the power of Restriction because they piss they magician off or the magician doesn't agree with them.

That is when the magician must think very carefully about their real motives, ideas, and opinions, because the universe is telling them they got it wrong.

If the intended recipient begins to display difficulties in their lives but they continue what they are doing, then they are likely going through a rebalancing process as a result of the magic.

Remember: working with these Divine Powers means to stand amongst them and work with them in harmony, not to use them as your own personal armoury.

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## *Strength*

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The power of Restriction can be a force to work with to strengthen something, or yourself. When the power of Restriction is engaged in order to strengthen, it flows as a higher octave of the Grindstone. In some mystical/magical systems, the power of Restriction is called Strength.

Working with the power of Restriction in this way enables the magician to call upon these deeper powers of creation to flow through them and restrict them in whatever way is needed in order to strengthen and balance themselves. This magical action speeds up the natural process for the magician. Restriction will flow through any aspect of the magician's life, actions, health, and body, and in whatever way is needful, in order to strengthen, mature, and rebalance them.

However, inviting these deeper powers to engage with an individual human can be folly if the power of the Grindstone has not already been worked with to its full completion. We work our way inwards in the inner worlds in slow steps, working with each power in turn as necessary: the trick is to become as balanced as possible so that you can pass by and through these powers without being torn apart or filled with them.

Once the magician has worked with the Grindstone as much as they are capable of, then the power of Restriction is triggered. Then anything not polished by the Grindstone is sought out by the power of Restriction and is limited. It becomes a powerful barrier, but instead of fighting it we work with it as a boundary, as a limitation: we ensure that we focus on what needs to be dealt with, and that we learn from it. This in turn

strengthens the magician, as the restriction of weights on a muscle will strengthen it if worked with wisely.

The magical sword, the Limiter, is connected to both the Grindstone and the power of Restriction: the sword is the lowest octave of this power. By first learning the power of the Limiter and then working with the Grindstone in our magical lives, we eventually reach a place where it is wise to be open to the power of Restriction. But it is a choice that must be thought about carefully, as sometimes our greatest magical strength comes from death: the ultimate restriction.

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### *Vessels and Restriction*

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In your apprentice work you worked a lot with vessels, which are a form of restriction: a vessel restricts a power or substance and contains it. The same is true of a temple. A temple is also a vessel with boundaries that contain power and contact: the directions and thresholds define a contained space into which power can flow in a limited way in order to achieve something.

In adept magical construction, the power of Restriction is triggered within the substance of the building or within the thresholds of the temple. First the magician learns to build up thresholds, work with directions, and contain power within that setting. Later the magician learns to reach further into the inner worlds and bring the power of Restriction into the pattern, both in themselves and in the temple space.

By engaging this deeper creative power the temple becomes a living vessel of Divine Consciousness. Any magic done within it that flows with the forces of nature will be powerful and far reaching. Any magic done in such a temple that is not in harmony with the natural forces will trigger the various power dynamics to jostle until the magic is either brought into harmony or becomes tightly restricted and closed down.

As you will have started to realise, the deeper into the inner powers you go, the higher the stakes become. This is why a true adept is called an adept: they become adept at working carefully and powerfully with the true forces of creation.

To begin the process of understanding the force of Restriction, you will start with the simple steps of recognising this power, understanding

its dynamic, and passively incorporating its power into your ritual work. You will not actively try to work ‘face to face’ with it: that would be insane at this stage of your training. But simply keeping an awareness of it, flowing with it, learning its lessons, and applying them under your own steam will prepare you for direct interaction with Restriction at a later stage of your magical life and work.

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### *About the practical work*

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In this practical work you will learn the first step of incorporating the power of Restriction passively into your ritual patterning. Because of the necessity for balance in such work, you will also incorporate two other deeper Divine creative powers that you will read about in the next few lessons of this module.

Because you will incorporate them before reading about them, do this vision ritual once; then once you have read and worked with the next few lessons you will be directed to come back to this working and do it again in the light of what you then will know.

After that, how you work with this is up to you. You can fully incorporate these dynamics in your usual ritual work, or use them only when you need to pull on deeper creative powers of rebalance.

The stone temple room where you will work is itself an expression of the three creative powers. While you will be aware of the powers as separate angelic presences, you should also be aware that in fact you will be working within these three powers. Don’t try to understand beyond that for now, just keep that awareness: the room is the junction of the consciousness of these three vast angelic beings.

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### *Task: The ritual expression of human balance*

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Set up your working space, put out the tools, light the lights and open the gates. Go round the directions, acknowledge the contacts on the thresholds, bow to them, and tell them you are learning about the deeper powers of creation.

Place the sword in its position by the central altar, place the cord around your right wrist, the vessel on the altar, and the stone by your feet. Put on your stole.<sup>8</sup>

Stand for a moment in silence to still yourself. Close your eyes. Be aware of the sword and hold out your left arm. Make the sigil of the Limiter in the air with your left hand and then the sigil of the vessel with your right hand. With your arms stretched out to the side, be aware of the stars, the future and the Star Father above you; and be aware of the Mother, the earth, the stone, and the past beneath you.

Cast your mind to your feet, and be aware of the power of the Grindstone beneath your left foot and the power of the Threshing floor beneath your right foot.

Be aware of the flame within, and that your centre is where everything comes together: you are the fulcrum. Everything you do in life flows from the Grindstone and the Limiter, and everything is harvested on the Threshing Floor and weighed in the vessel.

Fix in your mind the image of yourself standing with these powers around your body. Take as long as you need to fix the image of this stance in your head.

For this next part, keep an awareness of yourself standing within the powers, surrounded by the directions: you are leaving the pattern hanging there in space. Sit down facing south, with the central altar before you, and close your eyes.

Go to the Inner Library, and go straight to the stone temple room. As you walk towards it you will notice that many beings and people from the Inner Library are following you. As you reach the stone temple room, the people fan out and surround the outside of this place, but none follow you in.

Once inside, go round the directions of the stone altars starting in the east. Bow to the directions, and then stand in the centre of the directions.

Remember the image of yourself standing in your own work room with the powers around your body. Merge the two together so that you are standing in the stone temple room and also your own work space at the same time.

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<sup>8</sup>Do this from now on in ritual to charge it.

Once you have a good sense of yourself in both places, turn your focus back to the stone temple room and, and in vision, hold out your left arm. As you take the arm out, work very deliberately, unfolding the arm with focus. When the arm reaches its extension, see the sigil of the Limiter appear by your hand.

An angelic being steps out of the east, the angel connected to your sword, and stands by your left shoulder. As the angel touches your shoulder, a sword appears in your left hand. Your hand and the hand of the angel on your shoulder both uphold the inner Limiter.

Now unfold your right arm, carefully and deliberately, with focus. When the arm reaches its full extension, see the sigil of the vessel appear in your right hand.

An angelic being steps out of the west, the angel connected to the vessel and scales, and stands by your right shoulder. As the angel touches your right shoulder, a brightly shining vessel appears in your right hand. Your hand and the hand of the angel together uphold the power of the vessel.

Turn your attention to your right hand holding the vessel. Look at your cord: you will notice it is moving. The cord has become a snake, a cobra, and it is slowly winding its way up your arm. Do not be afraid of it: this cobra is the guardian of Ma'at, and it will protect you. The snake winds its way across your shoulders to the back of your head, and rears its head over your head, its eyes staring straight forward.

Once the cobra is in place, you become aware of a pulse beneath your feet. The stone floor is slowly pulsing like a heartbeat: you are feeling the heartbeat of the land, of the Mother, of the earth itself.

As you feel into the heartbeat, you realise that each foot feels it differently. In the left foot it is vigorous and strong: the Grindstone that marches you forward into the future. In the right foot the heartbeat feels gentler, as though fading away: the Threshing Floor that sifts and weighs.

Stand for a moment in that awareness of everything around you. Feel into your centre, into your inner flame, your vital force. You are at the centre of all things: of all times, all worlds, and all forces that flow through nature. From that centred place, you feel the balance between the two powers of east and west.

As you stand in that balance, the angel that initiated you in this place steps out of the south altar and stands before you, looking at you. Then the angel looks beyond you and lifts a ram's horn. The angel blows on the horn. The sound reverberates round the room and makes your body shake.

The room falls away and you find yourself out in the stars, the two angelic beings upholding you at each shoulder, the flame within keeping your balance, and the cobra with its hood extended over the back of your head guarding you. The angel before you with the horn turns slightly to your left and sounds the horn once more. Keep your eyes on the angel with the horn and do not look around you.

Behind your left shoulder and behind the angel at your left shoulder, you feel a vast force building up, a force that shines a brilliant light. It fills the left side of your body with light and vigour. It fills your sword, which starts to hum with power and becomes bright with light.

As you fill with the power you will begin to feel invincible: check that feeling straight away. Cast your mind to your left hand and remember the name of the sword: the Limiter. Engage that power of limitation and understand that the power is not your own power; it is the Divine Power of creation, the Light Bringer.

The Light Bringer is the power of creation, the impulse to forge into the future, into life. It flows through your left hand, through the sword, through your heart, your left eye, and through your left foot.

As you keep your eyes on the angel before you, a bright road, too bright to see in detail, opens up before you. The angel with the horn stands on that road and you understand that it is your road forward into the future, and also into timelessness.

Your sword fills with power and light and becomes too heavy for you to hold up. The angel at your left shoulder reaches out and takes the sword from you and holds it in position for you. Let it go willingly, but keep your arm out.

As soon as you relinquish the sword, the angel before you turns slightly to your right and blows the horn one more time. A power begins to build up behind your right shoulder, behind the angel that is standing at your right shoulder. It is a power of darkness and of stillness. The dark stillness fills the right side of your body and you begin to feel a sensation



of restriction on your right side. Your right arm and leg become very heavy, and your right eye begins to blur.

Your first instinct might be to struggle against this, but do not. Let its power fill you. The darkness is a powerful force that weighs you down on your right side, and it is darkness so intense that you can barely understand it. The angel to your right shoulder places a hand upon your right hand and helps you hold up the vessel, as it seems to get heavier and heavier; yet you know instinctively that you must not release your hold of it.

Once you stop resisting the darkness, a deep peace fills you. The vessel in your right hand draws your attention more and more, and you begin to realise that it is filled with everything you have done so far in your life, good and bad. As you keep your attention on the vessel you become aware that it also holds everything you have ever done in any of your lives, past, present, or future: it is the sum total of your deeds while you have been in physical manifestation.

The vessel gets heavier and heavier until you think you are going to drop it. Just as you feel you can no longer hold it, the angel on your left shoulder places the sword back in your hand.

It is then that you realise that your sword initiates actions, and your vessel holds the completion of those actions: you limit the use of the sword so as not to put too much weight in the vessel. You begin to become balanced.

As soon as you realise this, the flame within turns to a bright, beautiful spark. It is a spark full of power and beauty, a spark so intense and wondrous that it fills your heart with joy: you are filled with a brief glimpse of perfect balance. The joy builds until you think you will burst, until both angels at your shoulders remind you of the tools you hold.

As soon as you become aware of your tools again, the spark within you becomes a focused point of light: a fulcrum. The tools weigh equally in your hands. You are filled with light and dark, with forward momentum and yet restriction: you are in balance.

With this realisation, the angels vanish, the tools disappear, and you are left drifting in the stars. You are at total peace, in total stillness, and in harmony with the stars around you. This is where you belong, where you come from, and where you will return to.

Physically lie down while keeping the vision and spend some time

just being in that stillness and silence among the stars. Don't worry about falling asleep, as you may well do. Just let go and drift.

When you wake up, sit quietly in your work space for a short while before closing the space down and putting things away. Write up everything you can remember straight away in your journal and type up a summary into a computer file for your mentor (if you are being mentored).

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### *What happened?*

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In this vision you encountered the next layer of powers that you will learn to work with. As you begin to work with deeper and more powerful forces, you must learn to understand how those forces work by first experiencing them directly in your own body in vision.

This vision takes you a step deeper in while still keeping you on 'this side of the threshold,' which in turn allows you to experience a tiny fraction of those powers.

You may have noticed that the deeper powers switch sides: the Limiter and Grindstone, the two powers which limit, condense, and encourage restriction are on the magician's left side. These are the powers closest to humanity. As we go further into the inner realms, that power of limitation becomes pure Restriction and darkness<sup>9</sup> and is perceived to be on the right side of the magician. The powers work in opposition, with the lower octaves in the active left hand and the higher octave to the right side, behind the magician.

Similarly the power of the vessel, which both weighs and holds completed action, but is also the dispenser of life, is to the right of the magician. But the Light Bearer, a deeper power of life that flows into the vessel, appears behind and left.<sup>10</sup> The Bearer of Light seeks the south, the future, and the Power of Restriction oversees everything that has been completed and is therefore, in our human time, in the past.

All these powers revolve round the central spark, the fulcrum of the power which is perfect balance. Though we cannot achieve perfect

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<sup>9</sup>The darkness of density and restriction.

<sup>10</sup>It lights the future action of the magician.

balance in life, it is what we strive to achieve, and by working towards that achievement we learn to connect in a small way to these vast powers. The closer to balance we come, the more deeply we can connect with these powers.

By experiencing these powers in vision, out in the stars, we can remember at a deep level: we touch base with who we really are as eternal souls. Yet because we are in life we cannot stay within that experience. It triggers, and our deeper selves remember: we carry that experience back into our magical and mundane lives. Our minds may forget as the memory of the experience fades, but our deeper consciousness does not forget: it is a subtle awakening.

In turn this influences at a subtle level how we work with power, how we wield the tools, and how we view the world around us. The opposing powers of limitation and release, of action and result, and then of the impulse to manifest in life (the Light Bearer) and to withdraw from life (Restriction), all dance around the magician, which triggers the next stage of the maturation of the magician.

Once we gain an understanding of these opposing features with stillness in the centre, and are able to work from that understanding, then we are able to step into the deep and powerful flow of magic that works in harmony with creation and destruction.

QUAREIA

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