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## QUAREIA—THE INITIATE

### Module VI—Angels and Demons in Depth

#### Lesson 5: Guardians and Gates I

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# WELCOME

*Welcome to this lesson of the Quareia curriculum.*

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

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*So remember—in order for this course to work, it is wise to work with the lessons in sequence. If you don't, it won't work.*

*Yours,*

*Josephine McCarthy*



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## QUAREIA—THE INITIATE

### Module VI—Angels and Demons in Depth

#### Lesson 5: Guardians and Gates I

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Guardians and gates are another group of beings that are important for you to recognise and understand, as you will come across them more and more in your magical work and meditations. Most of them are angelic beings, though some are Underworld beings, and knowing what you are looking at or working with will tell you a great deal about the type of magic you are connecting or interacting with.

We have already talked to some extent about the differences between angelic and demonic/Underworld guardians, and through the course you are also learned bits here and there about how they present, when they present, and why. Now we will look at the straightforward magical details which will directly inform your magical development.

Guardians and gates are beings that work with all living things and places, and in particular with humans. They are either naturally or Divinely placed, or they are magically placed. When they are Divinely placed, they guard inner places and realms or special natural places on the land, or they guard specific people for particular reasons. When they are magically placed they tend to guard temples and tombs, and the gates are worked with in ritual patterns and directions.

The angelic beings that make up guardians or gates tend to have imagery to which we can relate and interact with to a limited degree.

From an inner perspective they tend to appear as creatures, humans, or as literal gates or doors. Which appearance they choose tells us their power and quality, and how close or far they are from human consciousness—which dictates how directly they can communicate with us.

Guardians of people or places can appear as creatures (bulls, lions, raptors), or as human beings with wings; or they can be composites of different creatures with a human face. And here is where caution is needed, as demonic/Underworld guardians can also appear as composites, and though they do the same job, the way to approach them is very different.

Gates most often appear as doors or walls, and only occasionally as creatures. When they appear as doors, walls, or blockages of some sort, they can be merged with by the magician, if the gate allows it.

And so we come to the practical magical techniques: what you see tells you not only what they do, but how to interact with it and pass by it safely. Let's have a look at some different presentations and how the magician would interact with them.

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## *Gates*

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When an angelic gate appears as a door you cannot stand and have a conversation with it, but you can access whatever it is containing with the right approach.

Gates can be angelic or/Underworld and their job is to filter out whatever is inappropriate for whatever lies beyond. Passing through them affects the magician deeply, and for the long term, not just for the encounter—which is worth remembering.

Whether the gate is angelic or Underworld largely depends on what is being contained and where it is. Gates are access points. Before passing through one it is wise to know what is beyond it, or what the clear intention in magic is.

Angelic gates filter out people from a place, or they allow access. How they filter depends on the person: they often 'read' you to check it is appropriate for you to continue beyond them. You have already experienced this in a small way with your work in the Inner Library. The gate, door, or wall reads you either when you put your hands or forehead on

it, or when you step *into* it. If all is well, you are allowed to pass. This is indicated by the door swinging open or the door/wall vanishing.

They can read you, but they cannot communicate with you: there is no creature/human interface for communion. You are simply let through or rejected. Rejection is not a judgement on your person; it is about suitability. If you are about to be ill, or what is beyond could seriously damage you, or you could cause problems for whatever lies beyond, then you are rejected. When things change, the gate lets you pass. The angelic gates are connected to the Grindstone and work with the same dynamic of necessity.

Demonic gates work very differently to how an Underworld *guardian* would work: remember, guardians and gates are two different things. A demonic gate will always let you through, but if what is beyond is not appropriate then you are likely to get hit or destroyed. A demonic gate will often appear as very glamorous and inviting, but what it guards is often destructive. It does not work by rejecting you; it guards by nature of your own ability to make choices.

Often demonic gates do not appear on their own. They are nearly always beside an angelic gate, which is often less glamorous and less inviting. Demonic/Underworld gates are usually in place as a distraction or filter, not as an actual gate—remember that.

And this gives us an insight into the dynamic nature of underworld beings in magical inner vision. They work through the power of the Unraveller and will allow you access to your own mistakes, often with painful consequences.

The demonic gates are very different to the guardians and thresholds, which will simply reject you if your name is not on the list. A gate is a deeper aspect of demonic consciousness, and it works through the magician's own nature. Someone dumb enough to be taken in by a sparkly overdressed gate will be too dumb for the Mysteries that lie beyond, so they are channelled down a useless and self-destructive path.

If the magician sees two gates together, opts for the angelic one, and is rejected, then the wise magician walks away. The stupid magician goes straight for the demonic gate and gets tangled in an unravelling energy. This is how deep and powerful places can be protected.

This inner presentation was well known in ancient history. It appears in the *Odyssey* and later in the *Aeneid*. This extract talks about the gates

in terms of visionary dreams and visionary action:

τὸν δ' αὖτε προσέειπε περίφρων Πηνελόπεια:  
 'ξεῖν', ἧ τοι μὲν ὄνειροι ἀμήχανοι ἀκριτόμυθοι  
 γίγνοντ', οὐδέ τι πάντα τελείεται ἀνθρώποισι.  
 δοιαὶ γάρ τε πύλαι ἀμενηνῶν εἰσὶν ὀνείρων:  
 αἱ μὲν γὰρ κεράεσσι τετεύχεται, αἱ δ' ἐλέφαντι:  
 τῶν οἱ μὲν κ' ἔλθωσι διὰ πριστοῦ ἐλέφαντος,  
 οἳ ῥ' ἐλεφαίρονται, ἔπε' ἀκράαντα φέροντες:  
 οἱ δὲ διὰ ξεστῶν κεράων ἔλθωσι θύραζε,  
 οἳ ῥ' ἔτυμα κραινοῦσι, βροτῶν ὅτε κέν τις ἴδῃται.

And then said wise Penelope to him:  
 “Stranger, dreams are awkward and confused,  
 Nor are they effective in all men.  
 There are two gates of incorporeal dreams:  
 One is of horn; the other ivory.  
 The dreams which pass the carved ivory  
 Deceive men and carry fruitless words.  
 While those that set out through the planed horn  
 door,  
 They come true, whichever mortal sees them.”

—Homer, *The Odyssey*, Book 19, 1.559–567. (Translation ©  
 Michael Sheppard, 2015.)

The gate of ivory is beautiful and made of a rare substance that draws the seeker with its riches and beauty. The gate of horn is plain—in fact the Greek says “planed flat” or “polished”—and made of a commonplace substance.

The dynamic of two gates, one glittery and enticing and the other plain, repeats over and over in ancient texts. It is also very apparent in inner visions.

The motif is also used in sacred architecture and as such is also mirrored in inner temples and realms. When you see two gates or doors presenting in this way, you know you are at the threshold of something powerful. The choice you make will determine whether you continue forward towards that great power, or whether you are led down a false path that will slowly unravel you.

The first filter is the choice of gates. The second filter kicks in when you are rejected by the angelic gate. If you walk away then with the intention of trying again the next time you come across it, you will learn

and develop, and come to a point in time when it is appropriate for you to pass through. If the rejected magician instead tries the glittery demonic door, they will pass through, but because of their inner imbalance the power beyond the door will be wrong for them, and it will trigger an unravelling. One door appeals to a person's curiosity and wisdom, the other to curiosity and greed.

This is an octave of a basic dynamic in powerful magic: *be smart or be toast*. This dynamic appears in magic over and over again in many different forms, and is a root dynamic that protects creation. The angelic/demonic octave of this dynamic is powerful and potentially destructive or creative: the further into magic you go, the higher the stakes become if you let stupidity creep into your work.

It also shows a deeper action of these different beings: angelic powers on the surface, in lesser magic, will let anyone with the right frequency through. If they are unsuitable they will not reject them, but will give them enough rope to hang themselves. But when it comes to much deeper powers and places, they will reject or block anyone for whom entry is inappropriate: the deeper power of Restriction kicks in.

Demonic powers on the surface that are guarding somewhere will instantly reject anyone who should not pass through. But at deeper levels they will let anyone pass, and the consequence is on their own heads.

So the dynamic flips as the power levels increase. The same switch is also observed in the inner realms when we get to the deep Divine powers of creation. If a magician or mystic has been able to reach into the deeper inner worlds where these beings are gateways, the demonic gate acts as an *idiot filter* to protect what is beyond—and also to protect the human. What is within you when you go to these deep places has a direct bearing on how these powers will react to you, and also how they will directly affect you.

We can also see this in action when in the story of the four Rabbis who entered Pardes—remember that? That story also shows how, once you get to the deep Divine thresholds, what is within you, who you are as a person, and how your deeper spirit makes choices determines how those deep places will affect you. In essence you learn to be your own guardian, responsible for yourself.

When you are a magical apprentice you are assumed to be clueless and inner beings will protect you from yourself. But once you have some inner knowledge the training wheels come off. You have to fall back on

your own choices and reactions.

Those choices and reactions are coloured by your training. If you have been carefully trained you will act with a good amount of caution and inner gnosis: you will know yourself a bit better, and know your true impulses and agendas. But if you have been poorly trained and have acquired enough knowledge to get you into a deep place, and have an overinflated idea of yourself or are still driven by impulses and wants, then you will quickly unravel in the face of these huge powers.

This is why you have been taken slowly through processes that you keep revisiting: these are polishing you at a deep level and also laying down deep memory patterns in your brain so that your instinctive, primal reactions come from a more balanced place.

It is like the athletic or ballet training that was mentioned at the beginning of the course—and now this training will start to come to fruition. By learning repetitive techniques in fine detail (which also teaches you that things don't work straight away but need a lot of practice) you start to become magically engrammed. Pathways are developed in your brain to filter the deeper side of you and alter your behaviour patterns. This ensures that when you stand before something like angelic and demonic gates or guardians, your reactions will come from a deeper, trained place, not from immediate wants or curiosity.

Similarly imagery is deeply implanted within you along with ritual patterns. Not only are these apparent to every being that comes across you, but they will also become a deeply stabilising resource that you can draw on without even having to think about it.

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## *Guardians*

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When you come across guardians, besides the dynamic of how they work that you already know, there is also a deeper dynamic that you need to be aware of: *what lies within you*. Both angelic and demonic guardians will react to who and *how* you are and reflect that back to you. This is why you spent so much time in your apprenticeship learning how to self-examine, how to work from stillness without emotion, and how to work towards balance and Justice.

Connections between beings, Divine powers, and places in magic work with a dynamic of constant reflection: how you are as a human will



determine how inner powers react to you, and they will in turn reflect back at you what they perceive within you. It is not something you can manipulate: you cannot hide anything from these powers. If you have a heavy imbalance in you, they will react to you.

This is poorly understood in some magical systems which rely on command and control when dealing with angelic or demonic beings. You can summon a being using externalised ritual magic, but how that being will affect you depends partially on whether or not you have your shit together. Remember, a guardian's job is to ensure that no one passes by unless they are supposed to. How a guardian presents during its assessment of you can reveal a lot about what sort of guardian it is.

Angelic guardians usually have a wide remit within a specific brief: not only do they guard a place, they also guard the sum total of time expression of that place. In simple terms this means that an angelic guardian protects the pattern of the place across time. When a magician goes into a particular inner realm or place that is angelically guarded, it leaves a resonance within the magician—remember when we talked about how all magic done stays with the magician? The reverse is also true: when you go into and work magically with an inner place, you change its pattern permanently in a subtle way. The angelic being will not be concerned about the changes within you (unless it is guarding you), but it will be concerned about the changes you bring to a place.

This energetic connection is not passive and limited to a specific time. It constantly flows and changes: you can continue to affect a place years after you have visited it, and vice versa. If an angelic guardian perceives that such a connection would not be good for the place it guards, it will reject you. If the place itself will not be too badly affected by your visit, but it would not be a good connection for you, then the angel will generally not interfere—it will leave you to learn your own lesson. If you are a threat in any way to the place, it will reject you.

If you are connected to the place, like you are to the Inner Library, and something is happening at that time that may be a threat to you, it will also reject you: you and place become entwined in the pattern and it will protect you and the place, even if that means barring you access at a particular time.

And this is wise to remember when you are doing a lot of inner work: if you are suddenly rejected from a place you normally work with, it is to protect both you and the place. It is not a permanent rejection; it is over a period of time for you as a human, and for a good reason.

It can become very complicated, and like many things in magic when you get into deeper work, there are no easy rules. You have to work with what is presenting to you at that moment in time. But the basic rule of thumb is: if a guardian rejects you, don't push it or try to force access, and bear in mind that rejection might be time-specific. It's not a good time to enter that place, so come back again in the future.

The inner reflection within the human is a different matter. If you try to gain access to a powerful place that is guarded, the guardian 'reads' you to see what is within you. This is one of those times when you cannot hide anything. You cannot bullshit your way into a place. Nor can you cannot command a guardian to let you pass: it would simply destroy you or at least give you an injury.

So what is the guardian 'reading'?

The first thing a guardian looks at is your *balance of power*: do you have inner muscle that is more or less equal? Do you have active creation and destruction within you? How are your scales? Are you giving as well as taking? What are your deeper motives? And what are your intentions? All of these things are looked at in an instant by the guardians and if something is badly off then you will be rejected. It's not about being totally balanced and pure, which is impossible for a living human. It is about your process. Because this is so important to understand, and because you are now going to start going deeper into inner realms and working ritually with deeper patterns, we will look at a couple of examples in a moment.

The other dynamic which affects these guardians is connections you have already made. When you first started training you began working in vision by exploring the physical world around you. Then you made brief connections in the Underworld and started stepping into the inner worlds via the Inner Library.

The Inner Library is a key 'grand station' to which the majority of inner places are connected. Once you have started working in the Inner Library, all the other places connected to it become aware of you as a conscious being: the word is passed along to all the guardians. As you mature and progress, more and more places become apparent or appear as you become compatible with them: you begin to resonate at frequencies that match these inner places, and the guardians reveal those places to you.

By spending a lot of time working in the Library as an apprentice

and initiate, along with the developmental work that matures you, you become a member of the pattern rather than an outsider. As a member, the guardians work to guard you as well as the place, and will essentially hide a place from you until it is appropriate for you to be there. If you are an outsider, you are far more likely to get a direct hit from a guardian as you are an unknown quantity, and if you are not working within magical systems that change you inwardly, all imbalance within you will trigger an attack from a guardian.

However if you are working within a system that slowly develops and matures you, the angel can see where you are going in terms of development and is far more likely to protect rather than reject you: it sees your whole pattern, including your future development. You appear in the pattern as part of it, and are treated as part of that pattern. This is why magical work is seventy percent inner work and thirty percent externalized work: it is your inner work and development that appears to the beings, not your fancy wand or sigil-spattered robes.

Underworld/demonic guardians do not read you by your overall inner pattern. They read your past, your blood lines, your magical roots, your anchor, and they react to what they see. This is why, when you pass in vision into a tribal sacred place, you will be confronted by a being who wants to know where you have come from, who your family is, and what you have done that has brought you to this point in life. Tribal sacred spaces usually use Underworld or land guardians, and they will read you in terms of past/Underworld/ancestors. Again, this is why you spent a lot of time in your apprenticeship working with ancestors, the Underworld, and land beings: they get to recognise you from the work you have already done, both out on the land and with your own blood lines.

Because this is such a complex subject matter and an important one for your long-term health and sanity, it is worth taking the time really to think about these beings, their differences, their reactions, and what can happen. What is in you—past, present, and future—is what triggers these beings. So let us now have a look at a couple of examples.

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### *Example A*

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A magician, whom we will call Harry, has been practising various different forms of magic for a while, both with a group and by reading

books and experimenting. Harry is a natural magician with natural visionary ability. He is interested in the magic of Merkabah, as he wants to be powerful, and he is totally enthralled with classic ritual magic. He has a temple, all the robes and accessories that come with Solomonic magic, and he wants to push magical boundaries. A deep part of him wants to *know*, but he is also very self-absorbed.

In his everyday life he is pretty arrogant with his partner and has a sense of entitlement. He thinks she should work to support him because he is special, and everything in his life centres on him and his wants. His magic is very much about commanding spirits to do his will, and he uses magic every time something in his life does not go quite as he wants it. He has some success in getting what he wants using magic, and he is confident in his magical abilities.

He decides to experiment with visionary work to ‘crack’ the mystery of the Merkabah, and he starts this by first doing a banishing ritual, then calling on specific named spirits and commanding them to guard and assist him. He goes into vision, one he has constructed from Merkabah texts, and pretty soon he finds himself confronted by a guardian. The guardian appears as a being standing before a door through which he wishes to pass. The being is tall with wings, hooves, and many eyes, all but one of which are closed.

Harry commands the angel to let him pass and give him access to the ladder. The angel opens one of his eyes and looks at Harry, but it does not move. It looks into Harry with two eyes and sees his weakness and need to control.

Harry commands the guardian again to let him pass. The angel opens another eye and looks into him, seeing his motives which are curiosity and self-aggrandizement. Because of his personality weakness and also total lack of awareness of anything besides himself, he is not aware of the angel reading him: he is too dense for the reflection to be mirrored back to him. Once again Harry commands, using Divine names, and tells the angel to let him through. The angel opens more eyes and opens his mouth: the angel emits a sound that Harry cannot hear, but it kicks him out of vision.

Harry feels adrenal and pissed off. He does another banishing ritual, closes his room down, then goes to have a beer or three while reading his books to see why it failed. He starts to feel weird and gets abdominal cramps. That night he has nightmares, and the following morning he wakes up depressed and angry. He seems to have food poisoning, which really pisses him off, and he begins to feel like everyone is against him. He

slumps into a serious downer and depression that lasts for a few months.

In this example, which is based on a real case, Harry (not his real name) made a few classic mistakes. The first was trying to hack a system without having the slightest connection to it. The Merkabah mysteries are a specific inner pattern and, while that pattern has many links to other magical patterns and systems, he had not done any work that connected him into them in any way. So essentially he was approaching the guardian as an outsider. That is not necessarily a bad thing, though, and it can work if everything else is in place.

His second mistake was command and control. An adept magician properly tuned into Divine patterns, regardless of what system has taken him there, can work that way if needed, but it comes from a very different place within the magician than Harry was drawing from. Harry wanted to step into those mysteries in vision because he wanted to know, to experiment, and felt entitled to it: wrong reasons. That is a personal orbit and deeper powers do not work that way. Because he had natural ability he got as far as the angel, but that was it.

His third mistake was rejecting the rejection. When a guarding angel with many eyes, only one of which is open, opens another eye to look at you, it is a warning. The first open eye is what looks for connections within the pattern. The second eye reads into you. If the guardian does not step to one side or vanish after the opening of the second eye, it is time to question what you are doing there. If you are not connected to the pattern, a second eye will open to read who you are. If the angel sees that you are not connected but are truly seeking and working, and that you have enough balance within you not to cause problems, then it will let you pass.

If the angel sees problems within you, it will open another eye to look deeper into you and to cast a wider gaze over your fate pattern. At that point the magician usually picks up on the reflection: they begin to see within themselves what the angel has found, which indicates what work they must do to mature.

If you do not have that process of self-reflection and *knowing yourself* you will not recognise that process from the angelic reflection. This will trigger a third eye to open: it wants to see why you do not understand.<sup>1</sup>

At this point that Harry should have opened his own eyes, stopped

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<sup>1</sup>Note: the 'many eyes' warning is very specific to guardians watching over something. Other angels can present with many open eyes because they *see everything*, which is not always a threat.



Figure 1: Medieval Angelic painting

the vision, and reflected on why he was denied access. But he didn't. The angel opened enough eyes to threaten him and to trigger a process that could lead to his self-development. Instead, Harry got angry. Then the angel emitted a noise which hit Harry's own frequency and clashed head on with it: it injured him with a warning shot.

Harry didn't recognise that, either. If he had studied properly he would have realised what was happening and would have taken immediate steps to repair the injury. Instead he did a banishing, which would have done nothing, then went to have a beer. Warning: angelic contact and alcohol do not mix. Anything which affects your consciousness (pills, alcohol) will most likely *deepen* the injury.

Through his ignorance of magical process and self-centred stupidity, Harry ended up with an injury that took months to heal. If the angel had opened more eyes—which often comes along with more sound—he would have destroyed Harry. Such destruction can come either through insanity or physical impact depending on how deeply in vision one is.

Some magic, particularly totally externalized ritual without vision, does not put the magician in direct connection with these beings. In such cases injuries are rare. But using only externalized magic keeps the magician locked out of the deeper Mysteries. To tread deeply in the Mysteries—and the magic of Merkabah is very deep—there needs to be a

lot of development and maturity first, along with stable visionary skills.

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### *Example B*

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Peter is a magician who is also interested in the Mysteries of the Merkabah. He has studied them a lot and has worked in vision in the Inner Library, in the version of it to which his magical system connects. Peter goes in vision with the express intent of stepping into those Mysteries. He prepares himself ritually, sits down, and goes into vision.

He finds himself confronted by a guardian with many wings and lots of eyes, all of which are closed except one. He asks the guardian if he can step into what is beyond, as he wishes to develop on the path of the Mysteries. The guardian opens an eye and looks at him. Peter is aware that he is being read by the angel, and asks his heart to speak on his behalf. Peter cannot see anything particular going on, but he can feel something happening. Then the angel opens another eye and looks deeply into him.

Suddenly Peter is stricken with fear and grief by the reflection process, feelings he does not fully understand. The angel waits for Peter to experience the emotions, then blows across him, which knocks him out of vision. He sits in meditation to still himself, then feels into the emotions that rose in the vision. He still does not understand why they were so strong: he doesn't think he is fearful of something, and he does not have grief or depression, but the strong feelings stay with him for a while and unsettle him.

Peter then decides to do a reading to look at these strange feelings, and those feelings are expressed in the reading: he sees struggle, grief, and difficulty in his reading. Up to that point he has felt just fine in his life, and it worries him that his picture seems to have suddenly changed. He decides to have a few weeks away from magic to let whatever happened settle, time he spends meditating and walking in the woods near his house. The memory of the incident begins to fade and he gets on with his life and his magical work.

A year later he is diagnosed with cancer. He panics. He goes through the surgery and treatment, and is told by his doctor that he is lucky: they caught it early. But Peter spends a year struggling with his health, and all such a struggle entails. He experiences real pain for the first time in

his life, and real insecurity: he loses his job as he can no longer keep up with it, and the struggles put a strain on his marriage. He goes through periods of anger: why me? Why has magic not helped? He also goes through a lot of changes in his life as he is put in situations he is not used to.

A couple of years later his life begins to stabilise, his health is returning, and he has managed to get a job. The job pays much less and has none of the prestige of his previous job, but he also has more time for himself and his family. One evening, as he sits watching the sunset, he thinks back over the last couple of years and realizes how much his life has changed—and how much it has changed him. He is no longer so sure of everything, but he has learned a lot about people and himself, and what he is capable of dealing with...or not.

That night he has a vivid dream. He finds himself standing back before the guardian from the vision two years ago. Once more the angel looks at him. In his dream, a voice speaks to the angel. It is Peter's voice, yet is not Peter speaking—his heart is speaking on his behalf. The angel looks at him and reflects back to him: Peter feels older, wiser, and more balanced. The angel vanishes and in its place stands a bridge of many hands. Peter walks across the hands. He can feel each being as he steps, one step at a time. Halfway across he feels an immense joy that seems almost to burst him. It wakes him up and he lies in the darkness just being in that feeling.

This example is a classic angelic guardian encounter. Peter decided it was time to delve deeper into the Mysteries, but the angel disagreed. Peter had come too early: he needed to go through certain experiences to form and shape him. Peter did not know the angelic dynamics and how they worked, but deep inside he knew it was something he needed to do, and in his mind it was already time.

The angel did not outright reject him, rather it triggered the process. Many magicians do not understand that inner magic and outer life are closely entwined and cannot truly be separated: what you do in your inner work will affect your outer life, and vice versa. When you wish to step into the Deeper Mysteries, in whatever form, every part of you needs to be ready for them. Often we are the worst judges of when is the right time to do such work. Hence most really deep connections often happen spontaneously, not when we try to force them.

To come midway in that process, between spontaneous and intended, the magician can spend a great deal of time sorting themselves out,



maturing, developing, and *knowing themselves*. Doing this can help a great deal towards lessening the impact of such a deep inner interaction: the less within you needs sorting, the easier the trigger and subsequent life events will be.

In the example, Peter was a typical magician in his thirties with a good job and a good relationship. His only real struggles had been previous break-ups, a student loan, and getting fit when really he just wanted to eat and sleep on the weekends.

To step into the Deeper Mysteries, first you must be able to face yourself and know your own strengths and limitations. This not only helps you know yourself, but it also helps you know others. You have far more compassion, wisdom, and understanding when having gone through struggles you see the same struggles in others. You know what a person is going through, and can therefore truly understand them.

Knowing the limits of what you can cope with and what you are truly capable of achieving are important, not in a psychological sense, but in a deeper sense. If you know your own deep limitations, you can self-limit in magic. If you know what you are really capable of when pushed hard, you can push yourself in magic, keep out of your safe comfort zones, and truly develop.

The other dynamic in this example is less obvious but nevertheless present. The inner worlds are very efficient: virtually everything in inner magic has multiple applications and effects. When the angel looked into Peter, it saw a fairly balanced magician, but one still very naïve about their capabilities and true self: they did not truly know themselves. The angel also looked into Peter's fate pattern and saw a hotspot connected to destruction or development: it could go either way. But because Peter was reaching out for the Deeper Mysteries and doing it from a true place within, the creative aspect of the hotspot was stronger. This in turn, along with the angel's gaze and breath, triggered the Grindstone. Peter could not avoid a strong hotspot which was looming fast on his horizon, even though he was not aware of it, but his choice to try to step deeper into the Mysteries linked the inner vision and his hotspot together.

Peter also had a serious illness in his fate picture, one fated to have a great deal of power flow through it. By doing the vision at that point in his life, the power was channelled through the encounter with the angel, and not through an aggressive cancer. The power was taken out of the cancer, and the cancer experience served as a tool to teach Peter more about himself and how he operates in his universe. The power served to prepare the way for his first step into the Deep Mysteries.

When he had gone through enough of the process to drain off the fated power gathering in his life and out the hotspot, then having gone through the Grindstone process he was ready to take the first step. His first experience of the Deeper Mysteries expressed as a dream that he would always remember, one that would serve as a guiding light for him to continue in vision. That connection with the angel in dreams also changed everything around him, opening up the future path for him.

Peter might have come to the conclusion that his visionary encounter with the angel 'gave him cancer.' In fact it saved his life. If he had not done that vision at that time, he would have died within a couple of years from an aggressive cancer he knew nothing about. Lots of different threads of fate came together at the right time, and Peter was mature and balanced enough in his life and magical work for that junction to come to life in a positive way for the long term.

The bottom line is that these powerful encounters change things in your life. How you are in your life and at what stage of maturity you are at determines how that encounter will affect you. The two examples I outlined above represent the extreme ends of the spectrum of angelic guardian encounters—there are many shades in between, but these examples will give you a clearer idea of how they work, and why they do what they do.

We will look at demonic gates and guardians in part of the next lesson, as this lesson is already becoming too long. For now we will do practical work with angelic guardians and gates in vision and ritual.

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### *A note on the practical work*

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When it comes to encountering more powerful angelic beings in vision, some magicians can see them, often fleetingly, others get a vague visual, and some get no visuals at all. If you find that you cannot get a visual sense of them, rely on your other senses. Some perceive them as smells, others as sound, and some as feelings.

The more powerful the angel, the harder it is to visualise them fully. They can appear just as eyes, a hand, a foot, or a shape. But you will have a sense that picks up on them, and you need to establish which one works most strongly for you. If you have to rely on feelings, pay very close attention to how you feel during the vision.

If you start to feel danger, you know too many eyes are opening. And a feeling of danger is not quite the same as feeling 'adrenal': when you come into inner contact with these beings your defence mechanisms may kick off just because of their sheer power. You may have to experiment a few times with the vision to gauge how your body responds to the power. To keep you safe, always keep a focused intent on accepting the limitations the angel places on you. If you go in with an attitude of acceptance, the angel will not fire a warning shot.

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*Task: Vision of the Guardians and Gates*

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As with the majority of angelic work in opening pathways in the magician, the work is always done first in vision until the connections are properly made. Then ritual work can be done once the connections are properly established. This vision puts you in an encounter with these guarding powers so that the process of establishing connections and links can begin.

You have already, through your previous training, had some minor encounters with these beings. Now it is time to focus in and build on that work. As always with first powerful encounters with inner realm beings as an initiate, this one will take place in the Inner Library.

Set up your work room, put out your tools, and put your cord on your right wrist. Do the Fulcrum ritual to balance yourself and everything around you, then sit before the central altar to still yourself with meditation.

Once you are still, go into the Inner Library with the focused intention of meeting the angelic guardians. These guardians guard the thresholds to the deeper root temples.

As you stand in the centre of the Library, look at the four main passageways that lead off from the centre. You may choose which direction to walk down—and let the decision come from deeper instinct, not from any intellectual wish or curiosity. Always with angels, work instinctively. If you do not yet feel confident making an inner choice, you can ask the librarian to point out which direction you should go down.

Walk down the passageway until you see a large metal door at its end: it could be bronze, silver, gold, or some other metal. As you get close to

the door an angel appears before you. Tell them you are a student of the Mysteries and wish to learn, and that you do not wish to step over thresholds that are inappropriate for you at this time. This declaration will head off problems.

Watch what the angel does. Be very aware of feelings or thoughts that come into your head. If the angel does not move to let you pass, then just be still and feel into it: see if any reflection comes up for you in your mind. If it starts opening more and more eyes, step back, turn round, and go back to the centre of the Library. Come out of vision and meditate on the encounter and what it brings up for you. Think about it in terms of what direction that angel was guarding, if you were aware of the direction, and your relationship with that direction.

If the angel lets you pass, place your hands and forehead on the door (gate) so that the gate can read you. If the gate vanishes or opens, go through. Whatever you encounter there, have no emotion: just look, experience, then return. If the gate does not let you pass, just be with the gate for a short time so that you can understand its particular feel. When you have finished, return to your work space and sit in silence for a little while.

Once you open your eyes, write down your experience in your journal and later type it up on computer and save it.<sup>2</sup>

You can do this vision once, or you can return to the different directions if you wish. Whether or not you do this straightaway or wait a few days is up to you. If you have any strange or magical dreams, or things happen around you unexpectedly, take a note of them.

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### *Task: Ritual*

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Once at least a few days have passed, you can start the process of externalizing the connection. This is done simply at first, and is like laying the first brick of a foundation.

Set up your room, open the gates, do the Fulcrum ritual, then start the next part of the ritual from the centre. While working in ritual, see in your inner vision, with eyes open, the centre of the Library with the

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<sup>2</sup>If you are being mentored, your mentor may ask to see a summary of your encounter/s.

directional passageways leading out. Merge this inner pattern with the working room so that when you approach the east altar you are also walking down the east passageway to the guardian.

Go round the directions starting east, and call on the angel who guards the east gate of the inner temples. In your mind see the angel appear, standing between the gate of the east and the altar. Hold your sword in your left hand, point down, and have your right hand on your heart. State that you are a student of the Divine Mysteries and are in service to the inner worlds. Tell the angel that it is welcome at this threshold whenever it deems it appropriate, and that you will always respect the boundary that the angel keeps.

Choose your words carefully. Human speech around angels, specifically once inner contact has been made, is powerful. Say no more than is needed—and no less. Each word counts, and there should be no useless words of flattery, entreating, or rambling. Repeat the action in the other directions. Work out for yourself what hand does what and why.

When you have finished, leave the room with all the gates open and the angelic guardians in place so that it can embed in the room. All the work you have done in the past with angelic beings at the thresholds and the opening/closing of the gates has created a pathway for these more powerful beings to come through. When you feel it is time, go back into the room and put out the lights without closing the gates: the guardians will keep a connection to the work room.

All you are doing in this ritual is establishing a contact in the physical realm with these beings, rather than trying to go beyond whatever they are guarding. By tuning their power to the work space, you deepen the roots of the work space and also bring in the thresholds of the deeper inner temples. This way, the power of those places can flow into your space as and when necessary—and the guardians will make that choice, not you.

If you are tuned and still enough you can access these deeper temples directly from your workspace in vision without having to go through the Inner Library—if that is necessary. The pathways have already been laid down in your previous work, with each working laying a bit more pathway and each being worked with in the directions bringing a stronger connection in preparation for these powerful beings.

Did you notice also that there was a dynamic of role reversal? In vision, the angel is empowered, in charge, and you are in their space. In

the externalization, the angel comes to your threshold, and you establish that it can flow in and out. You ultimately control its access by calling it in and establishing the purpose, while still honouring its power and its ability to choose appropriately. Yet another small step of Divine reflection.

Write up your experiences in a computer log along with any reflections or realisations.

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### *Magical angelic guardian technique in action*

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There are many different applications to working with angelic guardians. One of them is useful for you to learn at this point, or at least know about. You only use this when it is needed, not because of any danger, but because it is disruptive to your work if you don't need to use it.

This technique is used if you have to move your workspace to a different room, a different place, or if you are working in a space that is only yours on certain occasions (like hiring a room for a day each month). Essentially this technique wraps up the magical patterns established in the room and puts them into storage.<sup>3</sup>

This version draws on angelic guardians who help fold up a room and hold it until you are ready to work with it again. This would normally be done by a group of magicians, two working on either side of each directional altar, but in a pinch an initiate can do it alone. Once the work is done, no other magician or natural sensitive can tap into the work you have been doing, or crash into the inner aspect of your magical temple.

The technique uses a mixture of external ritual and inner vision and is something you can practice on your work space if you wish to. Just bear in mind that like all moves, like moving house, it always causes a bit of disruption, and sometimes things are never quite where you think you put them. So if you do experiment, you will most likely have to tune the room a few times afterwards. Tuning a room back into its pattern is done by going round the directions, opening the gates, seeing the patterns, doing the Fulcrum, then closing down.

Set up the room, light the lights, open the gates, see the angelic guardians in each direction, then do the Fulcrum ritual. Go round each

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<sup>3</sup>There are lesser versions of this which I may have outlined in the earlier training, but at this point I cannot remember whether I taught it to you or not.

direction and tell the contacts in the directions what you are about to do—always keep your inner contacts in the loop when you are going to do something that affects them.

Starting in the east, stand before the east altar and see the angelic guardian in your inner vision. See the room around you as if the directions and patterns were on a large carpet or cloth, with nothing beyond the carpet: no walls, no roof, etc. You need to give visionary clues to the beings around you so that they know what you are doing.

Tell the angelic guardian that you are going to fold the magical inner room up to put it in storage. See the angel bend in towards you—and as he bends, the patterns and room around him bend in with him: it is like the corner of a carpet being rolled up. Each direction is a corner of the carpet.

When you see this happen, pick up the candle, turn, and walk to the centre altar. Be aware that the angel has connected into the candle flame. As you move to the centre altar, the ‘carpet’ in the east rolls up and is linked to the candle. Place the candle on the east side of the centre altar.

Now do the same in the other directions until all four directions are rolled up and concentrated on the centre altar. Be aware as you roll up the magical room that what is left behind has no power in it: it is just a room.

Once you have all four candles on the centre altar, and a visual of the four corners/directions all wrapped up together in the centre, in vision, reach down below the centre altar and ‘see’ a taproot. Place your hand on the taproot and tell it you are rolling the room up and will be putting it in holding for the future. Watch as the tap root rolls up and tucks under the bundle on the central altar. Now stand before the central altar, facing south, and ask the angelic powers of the future to take up the bundle and hold it for the future. Close your eyes and see hands reaching down from above. In vision, see yourself pick up the bundle, with the bright vital force of the central candle in the middle of the bundle, and hold it up to the hands.

The hands will take the bundle up, and you may see other hands or wings come under the bundle and encase it. It is drawn upwards and vanishes. Open your eyes and blow out the candles. The room should now be magic-free. All tools, candles, and cloths should be wrapped up in a bundle and put away. Break up the physical pattern of the room by moving or putting away altars etc., and move furniture around if possible so that the physical shape of the room is changed. If you cannot move

furniture and chairs, move objects, books, plants, etc. so that the room changes.

This method relies on your relationship with the magical pattern established in the room and your own visionary ability. Such a method is advanced magic in that there are no showy rituals, waving of tools, or reciting reams of words. It is simple, but powerful and effective. It relies on your inner contact with angelic beings and your relationship with the directions. A beginner would not be able to make this work, but because of certain pathways that have been previously established (Neith/arms, for example), it all starts to work.

Once a room is wrapped up it leaves no trace of the magic done in that room, unless you trigger any magical action in that space, in which case the bundle will possibly unfold. As a mature adept you will be able to hold the bundle within yourself so that you can unfold it wherever you work. But to do this without affecting your body, you will first need to tread a few more magical pathways.

To unfold the room, you essentially reverse the action: Light the centre light to receive the bundle. Reach up from above and bring the bundle down into the room. Establish the tap root by unfolding it and anchoring it to the deep Stone in the centre of the Underworld. Then unfold one direction at a time, while seeing the angelic guardian unfolding and standing on the threshold in each direction. Once all directions are unfolded, the directional lights are lit, the directions are worked, and the magician establishes themselves in the centre using the Fulcrum ritual.

It takes a lot of energy to do this work, which is why it is usually spread between a group of magicians and is not done on a day-to-day basis. But you will be more than capable of doing it alone on rare occasions, such as moving house. Just bear in mind the potential energy strain, and make sure you rest afterwards.



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