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## QUAREIA—THE INITIATE

### Module VI—Angels and Demons in Depth

#### Lesson 6: Guardians and Gates II

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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 VI—Angels and Demons in Depth

#### Lesson 6: Guardians and Gates II

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“If you gaze long enough into an abyss, the abyss will gaze back into you.”

—Friedrich Nietzsche, *Beyond Good And Evil*.

In Lesson Two of this module you gained another layer of understanding of Underworld beings. Hopefully now you are beginning to understand that the ‘demons’ of Christianity, and magic that tainted by Christianity, really do not exist and are fragments of a much earlier understanding of destructive beings of the land and the Underworld.

In this lesson we will look at these Underworld beings in terms of magical guardians and gates, to teach you the non-angelic aspect of this guarding dynamic. You will most likely come across these beings in your Quareia training, as the course reaches into areas of magic that a lot of Western systems do not, particularly those that have grown out of the Golden Dawn system.

These guardians and gates show up when you reach into some ancient temples, deeper Mysteries, and magical systems that developed in far-flung areas of the world. Expanding your understanding and practice outwards not only across time, but also geographically will greatly

expand your knowledge and practice. Staying within the confines of one narrow stream of magic will not only limit you, but it can also cause problems.

The further you reach into magic, the more you will find crossovers with other systems. Even though the surface presentations of magic in various continents and times can appear very different, once you dig deep into a magical system's roots you will find many overlaps. This in turn will bring you into the presence of beings that are not understood in more narrow, surface systems, and you need to be prepared for that.

Underworld beings that have been co-opted as guardians tend to turn up in some ancient temples, Underworld temples, Eastern cultures, tribal cultures, and some magical temples. Being able to spot them and know how to act/react will save you a lot of time and energy, while helping you avoid impacts. It also teaches you how to identify a culture or stream of magic regardless of its packaging. It will also help you if you choose to travel widely and visit ancient sites: it will help you avoid being challenged or attacked by these beings.

Underworld beings acting as gates are also important to recognise: not only can they affect you, but they can lead you down a dead end in magic, which is how they protect a place or power. We talked about this a little in the last lesson. When you come across an Underworld being as a gate, you will learn that it is there to attract and filter you: you learn to spot the signs and avoid that gate.

So let us look at the Underworld guardians, how they present, what they guard and also what other things they do.

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## *Underworld Guardians*

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These guardians, if they appear in vision for the magician, can look like serpents, composite beings, or dragon-like beings. If you get a full human presentation, and it feels 'bad,' then you are more likely to be facing a very corrupted line of human inner priests: the true evil within humanity far outdoes the terrifying aspects of Underworld beings.

There is also a basic rule of thumb that can help in identifying such beings: if it is scary, it is guarding; if it is glamorous, it is drawing you away from something or is working as a protective trap. If it is very chatty,

converses with you, and tries to connect with you or form a bond, then it is a parasite looking for a meal or host.

True Underworld guardians can be terrifying and will likely trigger a big adrenal response from your body. If they appear as large snakes, dragons, or otherwise reptilian beings, then you know you have come across something very ancient—so tread carefully. This type of Underworld guardian is not bad, but they are potentially dangerous if there are no common links between you: it is akin to catching a rare disease that your body has no prior knowledge of. However if they are guarding you, then there is no better or more fearsome guardian.

If you are working in a magical system or pattern that serves the land and protects the balance of nature, or is heavily connected to the root creative/destructive powers, then these beings will often turn up to ‘oversee’ you. This was well understood in early Egyptian magic/-culture, aspects of which are represented in their wall paintings: deities and kings are protected by a cobra. We also see this in the tale of Buddha when a cobra rears up behind the Buddha to protect him.

Snakes can be either protective or destructive, and knowing the difference is helpful. But even the protective ones, the Underworld guardians, can be very destructive if you get on the wrong side of them.



Figure 1: From the tomb of Ramesses VI

A very good example is the Ancient Egyptian goddess Meretseger, who is an Underworld guardian (don't forget the Egyptians considered most beings to be deities). Meretseger is very specific to an area: her home is the Peak, a pyramid-shaped mountain in the Valley of the Kings in Egypt. She oversees and protects the tombs in the Valley of the Kings, and attacks those who defile that place.

Here is a script from a stela found in the Place of Truth, now known as Deir el Medina, the Royal workman's village on the west bank of the Nile

near Luxor. The workers here were in charge of digging and decorating the royal tombs as well as making all the artifacts that were put in them.

“An ignorant man (I was), without my heart, who did not know good from evil. I was doing misdeeds against the Peak and she taught me a lesson. . . The peak strikes with the stroke of a savage lion. She is after him who offends her.”

—*Stela of Nerferabu* from the Place of Truth

I came across Meretseger when I visited the Valley of the Kings. At first I was stunned by the inner silence in that valley: it was like walking into a vast, highly tuned cathedral. I later learned that one of Meretseger’s names is *She Who Loves the Silence*. I stood among the hills that house the various tombs and I felt sad for the desecration of the tombs that had happened over the years.

A very clear voice said to me: “Don’t be sad, I protect those who need protecting, and ignore those who do not.”

I immediately got a really strong visual of lights all over the valley, sparks of souls still sleeping undisturbed in the hills. And there were hundreds of them.

She then called me to a particular tomb tucked away at the foot of the Peak. The tomb had been desecrated in antiquity, but its wall paintings and vast space were beyond beautiful, and it still hummed with power. It led deep into the foot of the Peak.

I could feel Meretseger all around me in that vast, deep place. That it had been ransacked seemed irrelevant: it was a still, sacred space deep in her belly, and still held its tuning. Even though the body of the original female king had gone and it had subsequently been usurped by another king, there was something powerful, still undisturbed, that resonated in that place. Having living people walk in and out seemed not to disturb the place, but we were very cautious, respectful, and spent some time there being in the silence and honoring the power of the Peak.

I noticed that no one else came in besides us (three of us), and it seemed forgotten, unpopular. Everyone walked past its entrance as if it didn’t exist. As we came out of the tomb, a tourist was hanging about outside, deciding which one to go in. He saw us come out and asked if it was worth visiting. I immediately said, “yes, it is a stunning tomb,”—then kicked myself for blurting that out. He was a typical, loud, crass

tourist and I knew at once that I should have kept silent to protect the place.

But I need not have worried: something most peculiar happened. He got to the threshold of the tomb, but could not step over it onto the stairs down. He tried a few times and seemed very embarrassed as he dithered at the entrance. We three stood and watched in astonishment. In the end he gave up and stomped off. Meretseger had rejected him.

We had posed no threat to the tomb, and because we three all had deep magical connections with that place we were given not only access to it, but we were lucky enough to have some of its beautiful power revealed to us. Somehow our names were on the *in list*. This could have come from previous magical work and connections, or bloodlines, or other lives. I have no idea which of those it was, but something allowed us full access to that astonishing place, and it was one of those experiences that changes your life.

A completely closed-down dumb tourist would most likely also have been given access, but would not have discovered any of its treasures. They would have left unharmed, as they were no real threat to the place. Anyone with agendas trying to get into that tomb would most likely be rejected, or least be given a very uncomfortable time, as the hapless tourist was.

And this brings me to how these Underworld guardians operate. In terms of inner energy and inner vision, i.e. meeting them in vision, these beings can block you immediately and mercilessly lash out at you. In terms of physical connection, if the person has some inner senses, they will be repelled by the guardian by way of a sudden change in emotion or a feeling of danger. If they continue and physically enter the space, and they are a threat to it, they will be struck. This does not mean they will suddenly fall down dead; it means the inner venom hits the person's sphere and begins its job of destroying them.

How that destruction manifests largely depends on the being's particular power. It can emerge as physical illness, mental illness, extreme bad luck, or freak accidents. If the confrontation is in vision, they will be kicked out and very likely also have a good dose of venom hit them. This will unfold as illness, physical or mental.

I slowly began to realise that the treasures these Underworld beings guard in these ancient places are not physical treasures but inner ones. The inner balance, harmony, and power contained in some ancient tombs

and temples are of far more value than any ancient baubles. They do not seem to care much about the physical objects, but they will defend their place's inner powers with a terrible, fearsome aggression.

But if your name is on the list, these beings will let you pass and will guard you also. Some of the more powerful ones, those with a long range of reach across lands, may also 'stay' with you as a guardian. An aspect of their power stays with you: you become part of their brief and they will watch over you. I suspect this ancient and powerful dynamic is the root of the subsequent, but very fragmented, magical understanding of having 'demons guard you.' You cannot force or beg these beings to protect you, but if you come within their orbit and connections are made, and you are in the pattern of whatever they are protecting, then you too will become protected.

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### *Underworld guardians and lines of connection*

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The reflection process also happens with demonic gates and guardians, but they delve more into your past, your blood, your connection to the land, connections to you through magic, and your children. If you are working with the Fulcrum and also on constant self-assessment, this should not be a problem.

If, however, you have retained unhealthy links in magic, this *can* be a problem. We have talked about the dynamic of every ritual and every visionary working and connection staying as a pattern in you. There is another store of connections that can adversely affect you, and it will come sharply into focus when you stand before an Underworld being. That is connections to unbalanced magical people.

When you work magically with a group, particularly at deeper levels of magic, connections between the magicians form as part of the pattern. The magician who is the anchor or leader of a group is usually the source of those connections. If that magician is working in a balanced way, those connections are fruitful and healthy. If, however, the lead magician is unbalanced, then those connections can become parasitical: the lead magician can suck the vital force out of the other magicians and students. This creates a very unhealthy pattern. When you stand before an Underworld being they see you are a holism of that pattern and will likely attack you—or at least *lean* on the pattern to break it down.



The baseline job of an Underworld being is to break something down, regardless of what their focused purpose is. Confronted by a magician with unhealthy patterns, even if they are not aware of them, they will trigger to break up that pattern, which will adversely affect you.

If you break those connections yourself and restore balance then all is well and good. If the Underworld being has to break those patterns then it can potentially damage or destroy you in the process. It will not see you as an individual being; it will see you as part of the holism, so it will hit you with enough power to destroy the pattern. That is not such a good thing!

These links and connections are more common in people today as more people connect with magic, and there are platforms for anyone to set themselves up as a leader or teacher. This is why discernment is such a major tool for magicians: learn what to avoid and learn to walk away from glamorous but unhealthy connections.

Such connections can be magically untangled from your own pattern by working with the ritual bath done in a certain way, which you will learn in this lesson's practical work. Doing a ritual bath the day before a full moon (when it is strongest) and adding into the recitation the removal of all connections from the unhealthy person, binding them up in the chains, and casting them out, will slowly remove them. There is no instant solution, but the monthly cleaning away of them will break up the pattern and eventually get rid of them. The weaker the bonds, the quicker they will go.

Remember, with these very real powers in deeper magic there is often no one instant solution to a problem. Instead the layers have to be peeled off. How long that takes varies enormously depending on the power of the connection and what caused the connection in the first place. Casual connections can be broken easily, but if you have worked ritually and/or in vision in any depth with an unhealthy leader then you will likely have a bit of a tangle to get rid of.

The other downside of these connections and tangles is that the unbalanced leader can draw on your energies and vital force and literally suck the life out of you over time. This connects you deeply into a parasitical situation which the Underworld being will spot and attack. The more powerful the connections and tangles, the more powerful the attack: think in terms of Set and Apophis.

In today's magical world, which is messy, diffuse, and full of unbalanced leaders, anyone who has worked in various groups is going to have some form of connection. This is another reason that Quareia training is for the most part alone: it is harder, but it also sidesteps such issues. Until only quite recently it was very difficult to find a magical lodge or group, and most people who did dip into magic in any depth tended to work alone.

The whole lodge/group idea is fairly modern and is one where people hark back to ancient temples and priesthoods in an effort to recreate that pattern. But people forget that such patterns came at a heavy price which also protected them: they lived and worked in the temple, they were carefully chosen, and they spent their whole lives under the protection of certain deities in return for a life of devoted work.

Modern magic is not like that. You are out in the world with all that such freedom entails, and this also makes you prey to magical predators. Learning to work alone, then working in small groups as and when needed with people you trust, sidesteps a lot of the connections issues.

When you stand before an Underworld guardian they will also see your bloodline and any unhealthy imbalances within it. Every blood line has these imbalances—just think about the people in your family at present! This will give you a snapshot of what bloodlines can store up. These imbalances are of no real consequence if you are already addressing them. Working to balance yourself triggers a process of rebalancing whatever is in your blood as well, along with work you do in the Underworld and with ancestors.

Keeping an awareness of working towards rebalance, regeneration, and not repeating past mistakes—yours or ones within your family—triggers pattern changes within you which are then passed on to future generations, even if you have no children yourself.

And that is an interesting dynamic, one I have observed in my own family and the families of magical friends. The work you do will not only affect any children you have, but the children of your siblings as well. The power flows forwards *and backwards*. This brings about change in your parents' pattern as well as the pattern of the subsequent generations. You are linked to your siblings through your parents, and the power of your work flows back to the parent, across the line to your siblings, then down to their children and beyond.

When you stand before a powerful Underworld guardian they see all of this, and if they see new lines within the pattern, lines of magical

regeneration and rebalancing, then there is no need to attack anything: you are dealing with it yourself.

So remember, when you stand before these beings, what they see is not personal or individual to you. They see a pattern, and if the pattern is working towards balance in an active way then they will not trigger to destroy it.

Constant work on yourself, the land around you, and maturing yourself through service to others and the land, not only teaches you a great deal of magic, but it also slowly changes your long-term pattern. This in turn lets you access much deeper parts of magic, parts a lot of people would be rejected from.

When you come across an Underworld guardian, if you have no connection with whatever is beyond them and you are no use to it, then they will reject you. A simple rejection is no big deal if they have not triggered to destroy something within you. If this happens you do not push for access. You just walk away.

If you have no connection to whatever is beyond them but you have something that is needed by whatever they are guarding, and your pattern is okay, then they may let you through. When this has happened to me, I have found that actually I *do* have a connection to that temple, I just didn't know it. When a magician reaches an Underworld being guarding a place, the magician often brings skills, tools, connections, and knowledge that may be useful to the temple powers. If this is the case, you will be allowed access, but you will be expected to do a job in return.

If the temple is balanced in terms of creative and destructive powers then you can do your job, whatever they ask for, and leave unharmed. Sometimes this brings with it a 'credit note': you helped them, and sometime in the future, when they pick up on you in need, and if it is within their power, then they will help you in return.

But if the temple beyond the guardian is unbalanced or works only with destructive powers, then you can get yourself in a sticky mess pretty quickly. This is why it pays to do your research before you dive headlong into a specific temple. If, for example, you were reaching for a very ancient temple and the guardian let you through, then you may find yourself confronted by an ancient deity or being who wants you to sacrifice a child, or yourself, in order for the temple to refuel itself. I kid you not, these types of things do happen, but thankfully these sorts of temples are pretty deep, which tends to filter out most of the dabblers

and idiots. If you refuse you may have quite a battle on your hands to shake off the temple's influence.

I made that mistake once, and I will never make it again: lesson well learned. If you intentionally go to a temple in vision or physically, and you are a working magician, make sure you know about that temple before you attempt to reach it. With outer temples we can research by looking into history and archaeology. With inner temples you can use divination, or you can work through the Library, which will block your access to temples that do not mix well with your pattern.

Trying to reach into an Aztec temple, for example, would just be stupid. The beings that still operate in that pattern are still bloodthirsty—they will bay for blood and if you do not give them what they want then they will take yours instead. So really, think carefully.

But not all ancient temples are like that, and some are still wonderfully tuned and powerful. The Underworld beings that guard them work closely with the deities and are often presented as their 'children' in mythology. When you come across a tale of a goddess giving birth to a snake man, or a multiheaded terrifying being, you are looking at a story that tells you Underworld guardians look after that deity and temple.

These guardians are not evil and nasty; they are old, powerful, dangerous, and work by tearing apart anything that comes near the temple that is badly unbalanced and ready for destruction. They deflect and terrify the curious, they ignore the stupid, and they welcome those who are potentially an asset to a temple. And in return for your help they will also potentially guard you.

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### *Reflecting humanity back*

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One thing that can happen when you stand before a powerful Underworld guardian is having a reflection of humanity cast back at you. This can be very unnerving, as you see the whole of humanity (and also nature) from the perspective of the Underworld. Essentially you see everything eating everything else, everything struggling against everything else to survive, and the lowest aspects of humanity: its cruelty, evil, and ignorance. Just as angelic guardians seek out our potential, Underworld guardians seek out our basest instincts and unbalanced selves.

They look from the nature of their own being: Underworld beings seek out degeneration that needs composting, and when they reflect back to us then this is the deep aspect that we see. The Underworld is everything that *was* and it looks at us in relation to everything that *is*. If we are working to improve ourselves and everything around us, the struggle we are engaged with stands out when they look. But when it is reflected back to us, we get to see the whole horror side of humanity. This can be very depressing.

When we get to see humanity without its clothes on, rather than plunge into depression or escapism it is wiser simply to realise that it is what you live amongst and are part of, but through your work you can trigger change and balanced regeneration. This reflection can affect you deeply, and this is a good thing, as it shows you what is truly important and what is not.

Recall the old faery tales that tell us how gold found in the faery realm turns to leaves when we bring it into our world. That tale is often told from the perspective of disappointment; in fact it is telling us about the real treasure: the nature all around us. Nature in its full truth: teeth and claws, disease and death, as well as beautiful trees, wonderful birds, and stunning animals, is a treasure to behold.

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## *Gates*

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As I said earlier, gates that are Underworld beings for the most part tend to be *glamours* or distractions. They present an enticing door that attracts the neophyte, the stupid, the overly curious, and the skimmer: the one who looks quickly without looking in depth and makes assumptions based on a brief view.

Underworld beings that present as gates are there to filter people away from the true gate which is often nearby. They appeal to a human's lower senses as a means not only to distract them from the true gate, but also to trap and unravel those who have got far enough into an inner realm and who in fact should not be there.

Doing inner visionary work is never easy. Usually the training teaches and filters the student so that as they mature and gain skills they can reach deeper into the Mysteries. However there are always some—natural visionaries—who can access these places either through their own abilities or by taking substances that open their minds to these places.

Often, but not always, these types of magicians have not gone through any polishing process, yet by nature of their natural ability they can find themselves standing before these very enticing gates. If their natural instincts are good, then no matter how sparkly these gates can appear their instincts will tell them that danger lies beyond, and they back away. If they do not have good instincts, then their curiosity and wish to gain whatever they think is beyond those gates takes over, and they pass through those gates. The gates will not block them: if they are stupid enough to want to push beyond the gate, then they will be confronted by whatever lies beyond.

Often what lies beyond these gates is a glamour or false Mystery to keep them busy while unravelling them until they become trapped. Usually what they find is a reflection from within themselves. If they recognise this quickly enough then they can withdraw with only transient damage. If they become enveloped in the glamour then it will stay with them as they leave the vision and they will begin to unravel mentally. If the power being guarded is deep enough, then they will unravel physically as well.

This is not a punishment, as no such thing exists in the inner worlds; rather it is to ensure that they never step into the Mysteries again. This can present as the onset of a long-term physical disease that effectively hobbles them and stops them doing further inner work—that is the kinder option. Or it can present as the onset of mental illness or the triggering of a latent mental condition. This also keeps them out of the inner worlds, trapped within their own glamour. These gates ensure that anyone potentially destructive to the magical pattern is taken out of that pattern and *kept* out.

If the gate is in the Underworld itself, this brings about a shift in its dynamic: it is on its own turf and as such is in harmony with its surroundings. Again the gate will filter out those unsuitable to move beyond it, but an Underworld gate will give true access to the deeper Underworld realms beyond, if the magician is suitably matched to their powers. It is a subtle but important difference.

The key for the magician is to know whether or not they are able to move beyond the gate without triggering its unravelling process. Such knowing is difficult: the Underworld hands over all responsibility of choice to the magician, and the magician must dig deep within themselves to see if it is appropriate for them to delve deeper. Gates and guardians do not present as often in the Underworld as they do in the other inner realms, so when you come across one you know you are

bumping up against a deep and powerful place. Unless it is a matter of life and death that the magician forges forward, usually when you see a gate/door/wall in the Underworld, it is wise not to try and access what lies beyond it.

Usually a magician working down in the Underworld accesses its places through stairways, tunnels, rivers, and so forth. Doors in the Underworld that present near the surface world are not as dangerous, but care should still be taken, and there should be a good reason *beyond curiosity* for trying to pass beyond them.

The classic sign of a magician who having passed through an Underworld being as a gate is starting to unravel as a result is a presentation of the *messiah complex*. They have a burning evangelical sense of 'revelation' and become obsessed with certain ideas. Much lesser versions of this presentation happen a lot when a magician loses balance for a short while, and it may take a while for them to come fully back in balance. But a sudden onset, extreme expression of this complex is usually a sign that they have been hit and the unravelling process has begun. Sadly it is rare for a magician who has taken a full hit from this power to recover. Essentially they are locked out of the deeper Mysteries by way of their madness.

There is an interesting dynamic that happens with glancing blows from guardians and minor unravelling from gates, and that is one of *birthdays of the event*.

One can usually recover from a minor blow, impact, or unravelling within a couple of months. However, at the same time each year, the magician will get an echo of the same symptoms that will last for a few weeks. This also happens when intelligent parasites have invaded someone and have been ejected: each year at about the same time, some of the symptoms will surface again for a month or so. Each year it will get less and less and finally fade away, but such annual revisitings of symptoms is a major sign that a magician went too far, too deep, or was invaded.

If this happens, all magic should cease around that time of year until the echo finally wears off. Eventually this pattern within the person will shed, like a dying skin, and the person comes out the other side a lot wiser..and certainly more cautious.

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*Task: Ritual bath with breaking of connections*

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Doing this exercise will teach you how to break connections leeching your vital force, and to do it without also cutting connections to those that you *load share* with.<sup>1</sup> When you have children, partners, family, and so forth, often those deep connections serve to protect, as well as connect you to, those to whom you are close. We are far more connected energetically to each other than most people realise, and that is natural and how it should be.

The only connections that need breaking are magical connections that are potentially unhealthy. This can be dealt with simply and one of the methods you can use is the ritual bath. Do a ritual bath for yourself, and when you come to the recitation over the water add in the breaking of all magical connections that run to or from you to other magical people that may be leeching vital force or adversely affecting you or the person on the other end of the connection. Work out your phrasing and do the bath the day before the next full moon.

Once you have done this, you will know what you are doing and can use it in future if necessary.

Remember, you are breaking connections between you and another *person*: if you wish to break connections from a magical system or pattern, this takes longer, and you also need to think whether or not that connection is good for you. Divination can help the decision.

If you have the bad luck to be strongly connected to a very unhealthy magical line, doing the bath with the breaking of connections the day before each full moon for a series of months should certainly loosen those connections if not totally break them.

If a week or so after your bath the person you broke connections with starts appearing in your dreams or in your mind during the day, then they are actively magically working to keep a hold on you. Every time they appear in your thoughts, reject that line of thought and exteriorize that rejection by voicing it. Then take another bath at the next full moon. The bath takes care of the magical side of things, and the exteriorization of the rejection using the person's name and the words of rejection retrain your mind and dismantle that connection. If you do not know the person's

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<sup>1</sup>Note: in the Quareia Magicians deck, the Scapegoat can indicate load sharing.



name, give them one based on their parasitical nature. Do not think about that connection unless it pops into your mind, and when it does, reject it. This works like a dripping tap to reform your thought patterns.

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### *Task: Ritual*

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If you have a serious problem with a magical person trying to tap into you and retraining and baths are not enough, then ritualizing the rejection using the directions, the Limiter, and the north gate can take care of the magical hook being used. Everything works in layers and often with such problems, unless it is a simple problem, layers of action will work well together.

Map out and write a ritual to break magical connections. You are in the Fulcrum, and the powers drawn on would be the Limiter to slow down and then cut the connections, and the west and north to compost the pattern. Work it out for yourself and write it up on computer.

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### *Task: Vision*

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Go into the Underworld and lie on the ground in the Underworld Forest. Once you are still, ask to see the surface world of living humanity as a holism. This will appear in many different ways to various magicians, but overall you will see how everything consumes everything else.

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### *Task: Research*

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Research goddesses who have strange children. This will show you the Underworld guardians that work with deities and are deeply connected to them. Various versions appear worldwide in ancient myths, and will give you an idea of these beings before Christianity created the demonic adversary of evil. If you look at Greek and Roman myths, look at the earliest representations and descriptions, then see how, as the culture developed and then went into a slow decline, the descriptions become more of what we would expect from Christian mythology.

One thing that can help your research is to watch films based on ancient myths—for example *The Odyssey*, *The Golden Fleece*, and so forth. More up-to-date films may have played fast and loose with the mythology, so it would be a good and very useful task to watch an up-to-date movie, then look at an older movie or series that stays closer to the original details.

Another thing to watch which, although it is not a straight take from mythology is nevertheless well-informed on themes of faery beings, Underworld beings and guardians, and land magic, is the Swedish ten-part series called *Jordskott*. It is in Swedish but is subtitled in English and can be bought as DVDs or downloads. It is a crime drama but in a setting of land, nature, and Underworld beings. As the episodes develop, if you keep your eyes peeled for things in the background, you will recognise all sorts of things that you have learned about in this course.

In the next few modules you will be looking at these beings from different angles and also stepping into their territory. Before you get to this it is really important that you lose anything that remains of your dogmatic understanding of 'demonic' beings, either from religion or other magical systems, so that you can work with these beings properly. So spend your time on this module challenging your ideas and thoughts about both angelic and demonic beings: clear the path so that you can get to work.

QUAREIA

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