



QUAREIA—THE INITIATE

Module IX—Working with the Spirits of
the Land

Lesson 2: Beings of the Earth II

BY JOSEPHINE MCCARTHY

WELCOME

Welcome to this lesson of the Quareia curriculum.

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

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

Yours,

Josephine McCarthy



QUAREIA—THE INITIATE

Module IX—Working with the Spirits of the Land

Lesson 2: Beings of the Earth II

In this lesson we will look at and work with other types of land and faery beings besides rock beings, which are the most common. We will also look at the specific issues surrounding, and methods for working with, these beings on different lands. First we will look at beings of the air.

Birds

Birds are particularly important to a magician. Forging friendships with them, then learning how to work with them—and as one of them—is a key skill in magic. Birds are strange creatures that we take for granted because we see them around us all the time. And yet they are astonishing creatures and very magical, just like cats. Birds are often intelligent, and certain types of birds are very intelligent, resourceful, and magical.

There are various ways a magician can work with birds, from observation and physical communication to flying with them and even mimicking them. The first step is feeding birds—which you should have already started in your apprentice work. This marks you as friend instead of predator. Watching birds carefully is the next step. As always with people living in modern societies, birds are often ignored or considered

pests; or they are romanticised. Magicians will often wish for a pet crow, or something similar...

A major step in the magician's mind is to move away from the 'pet attitude' towards a mutual respect. Having a pet crow might seem romantic, but for the most part it can be cruel. If you live with a bird then you have to be home at all times. You must always be its partner, and you must never have a human partner, as it will cause depression and jealousy in the bird. Leaving a bird alone each day while you go to work is a horrible thing to do, and though the bird will survive it will not flourish. A good magical relationship with a wild bird is one where you respect its life in nature, but you forge bonds with it without trying to cage it—which is really imprisoning it.

For a few years I worked with severely traumatised, injured, or mentally ill parrots, and often their trauma came from its imprisonment. I had to teach the birds the meaning of freedom, what 'flock' meant, and how to live out their natural instincts. It was a heartbreaking job, but we managed to rehabilitate mentally damaged birds and get them into sanctuaries where they could fly freely with other birds. I have also worked with wild birds: crows, owls, sparrows, and so forth, always releasing them back into the wild as soon as they were able to fend for themselves. It is often said that if you hand-raise a bird then it cannot go back into the wild: that is not true, but it does take time and skill.

Through that work I slowly learned a great deal about birds, not just about their rehabilitation but also about them magically. They are very magical beings, and building a magical relationship with them over time can greatly add to your magical life—and theirs. So let us look at the different aspects of working with birds magically, and as an initiate learn the practical work so that you know it. If you develop a strong pull to work more deeply with birds then I can tell you that it is the most magical and rewarding path to walk.

Augury/communication

Birds are strongly drawn to magical energy and to energy fluctuations in general. You have done some work already watching birds, but let us take things a bit further. When you start a connection with birds by feeding them, providing shelter, and generally respecting them, you begin a slow process of energetic connection that can build powerfully over time.

The first step is observing the birds around where you live. What birds are present? When do they vanish for migration, and when do they come back? As you watch them coming and going you will start to notice that although they migrate at the same time each year, the actual week or day that they leave or return will tell you about the coming weather.

Different birds react differently to weather, energies, and so forth, and some are more sensitive than others. When certain qualities of storms are coming, for example, the crows will vanish. They do not leave for every storm, but if one is coming that is dangerous or has a destructive consciousness, then the crows are usually the first to get out of its path. This tells you something is coming and you need to hunker down.

Where I live, I have learned to tell not only weather patterns, but energy tides and magical flows, by watching the birds leave or arrive. Blackbirds do not like certain types of magical energy, and will move away from the area if there is a tide or pattern that is magically destructive. I could write a long list of different birds and their reactions, but it would be useless to you for the most part, as each landmass and type of bird is different. The only way to tell what is what is by observation. This and other actions of birds forms the basis of augury from observing birds.

However, the trends for some species, such as owls, do carry over across landmasses. Owls are messengers and give warnings, usually about death or endings. They will draw close to a house and call if a pattern of death or massive change is around that house or area: the power attracts them. Ravens and crows are also good warning systems, and similarly will draw close if there is a death power building up.

By first observing and feeding birds, the bonds begin. They will slowly become aware of you as a magical being who is not a threat, though they will likely still be wary: this is part of their survival mechanism. Once those bonds start to strengthen, individual communion starts to build. I have a couple of ravens in my valley who come and tell me when there is magical danger around me. They land outside the house close to the window and scream at me until I get the message. They follow me when I go out for walks, and if they stay close to me then I know there is a dangerous energy around me and that I need to be cautious.

The next step is the birds coming into your dreams to warn you or to show you things. This is when the bird has crossed over from being attracted to an energy and is now directly trying to communicate with you. Once this crossover is made, friendships begin to form, and the

birds will hang out more around your home. They will ask for food, sometimes to the point of banging on your window for it, and will try to raise the alarm for you if they pick up on dangers around you. If they become tame around you, do not try to develop pet relations with them: just let them be themselves.

My mother had a strong bond with blackbirds. They would waddle into her house in the morning for breakfast. She would leave the door open and they would come in, have food, land on her head, hang out, then leave. She never tried to close the door, cage them, or interfere with them. They became her friends and would chatter to her, warn her, and keep her company.

To build these bonds, which is the first step of working magically with birds, first start feeding them. Have different types of food for different types of birds always available in the garden or on windows—which is something you should already be working with. Watch them, take note of when they vanish for a few days, and note down what happens at that time, either with the weather or the energy flows. Keep a bird diary so that you can plot patterns. Take note if your magical work attracts the birds or whether they vanish. Note down which breeds react in different ways. Take note of when a bird shouts a lot at you or comes very close to the window, and take note of what happens in your life around that time.

For instance, recently a group of screech owls came very close to my house and were calling long into the night. I presumed it was for the old lady who lives next door, as she is dying. But it wasn't. The following morning I got news that a baby in our family had died early that morning. This is an example of a crossover.

If it had been death energy in their environment, like from the old lady next door, then they would have very possibly gathered because of the energy around the death, and not directly to try to communicate with me. That wasn't what happened. The birds are directly linked to me and came to me to tell me that a death in my own line, away from that land, was about to happen: it was a direct communication. These subtle acts can be built on and worked with, and when you experience a crossover that is a direct communication to you then you know you have crossed from being simply in the same space as them to being their friend.

The more you build connections by feeding and watching, the stronger will be the bonds that will slowly start to form. Go outside and talk to the birds in your mind and also with your voice. Remember with the use of the voice that repeated sounds are a warning signal to a bird, so just

use a single word or sound. They talk well in mind-to-mind communication, though it may take you a while to understand them and for them to understand you. Start by thinking in terms of emotions and pictures, not words. If a bird turns up regularly around you, 'talk' to it and start a friendship. Never try to touch the bird unless they initiate contact: just hang out with them.

If you want to expand this surface level of work then learn how to tend to injured birds or orphaned babies. Such work can be specialised, but you can learn, and be ready for it. I always keep a heat pad, a dropper, and baby bird foods of different types in the house, just in case. I have had sparrows, thrushes, black birds, crows, doves, etc. all turn up on my doorstep for help. They will recognise the energy around you, that you are someone who can help, and they will come to you.

Flying

There are different ways of working with birds and flying: one is to fly alongside them as a bird, and another is to fly within a bird. These techniques take different amounts of magical skill. Care must be taken when flying alongside or within birds that it is okay with them and will not damage them.

The main reasons to do this work are to 'see' things or go places. Flying with or in birds allows you to look over a vista and see something without being spotted, or to get closer to storms or energies to observe them and assess their danger. If you fly as a bird, which takes skill, then you will appear in vision to others as a bird, not as a human: you can imagine the applications for such work.

The first step is to fly with birds. To do this you need to know about that type of bird's energy, its characteristics, personality, and power, and you must be accepted by those birds. The acceptance comes from feeding and befriending birds: now you know one of the reasons it was impressed on you as an apprentice to feed them and look out for them.

Once you have got used to the local birds and they are used to you, you can begin the process of learning to fly with them. The first step is to still yourself, then to learn to shrink yourself down. Also learn that type of bird's idiosyncrasies bird: how it moves, how it preens, how it calls, and so forth: you will adopt its character so that you blend better with it.

As you shrink, use your imagination to take on the shape and appearance of that particular bird; and as the birds outside take flight, take off with them and fly with them as long as you can. When you feel that you can no longer hold it, fly back to your body.

Practice this a few times until you find you can fly with them without too much struggle. One you have gotten to that stage, the next time you fly, look around you—and look down as you fly. When you look at the land and its creatures in vision, it often seems different or a lot is obscured: you have to learn to look without your eyes. Use your inner senses to feel out energies, life forms, and so forth.

Doing this regularly, a couple of times a week, will build up your capacity to fly with a flock of birds without being rejected by them, to look down and see, and to understand what you are looking at and feeling. Always take on the form of the birds you are flying with; so if you wish to learn to fly with crows then work each time with looking like a crow, moving like a crow, and calling like a crow.

Spend a lot of time flying in the area where you live, so that when something odd catches your attention you can go physically to see what you spotted. Learning to fly with birds and learning to interpret what you see/sense can take some practice, but if you persevere then it can become a very useful tool for when you need to scope something out, check an incoming storm, or survey an area of land, or people, or animals. The hardest part for most people is learning to interpret what you see using inner sight and senses: try not to impose images with your own mind; rather let things appear in their energetic form and learn through experience to understand what they are.

When you fly with a flock there will be a very defined pecking order within it, and you will gradually come to understand who is in charge. Once you figure this out, remember they are the head of the flock. You must follow the lead of the other birds in your behaviour. Never impose superiority in a flock, ever; simply be one of the birds. When you are comfortable flying with a flock or a few birds, then practice flying alone. It will feel different, as the energy of the birds will not be around you: just like humans, the energies of birds flow together and they can think as a team, which in turn becomes a hive energy.

Getting used to flying alone is important for a magician, as there will be times when you need an aerial view of something or will need to follow someone or find someone. It can also be useful when you want to cast your mind to a place a distance from where you are.

Should you build a relationship with particular bird, and that relationship becomes solid, then you can try to fly within the bird. Some birds do not like how this feels and it freaks them out; others are perfectly happy with it, as they get to feel into your energy and tap into your mind just as you feel into theirs.

However, this sort of work is draining on the bird and the magician, so it is not something to play with: use it only when absolutely necessary. You can develop this work in steps. If a bird starts to hang around you a lot, first cast your mind to them very briefly.¹ Slip into the bird for a few seconds, then come straight back out. Each time stay a little longer, but still for only seconds, not minutes. If the bird reacts badly, stop it. If the bird accepts you, don't overtax them, and keep your consciousness as small as possible. Build it up steadily so that you can move into the bird, stay there for a few minutes, and look out through their eyes: this is a natural instinct rather than a magically forced action, and each person will experience it differently. Your own instinct will guide you, as will the bird's reactions.

Learning to process the information seen through the birds' eyes also takes time and practice. Birds process information very differently from humans, and they use inner senses as much as they use smell, hearing, and sight. It will take some time for you to understand the varied strands of information that come from the bird's mind—and be very careful not to push the bird. These techniques must be taken slowly and built over time so that no damage is done. Should you be successful with this work then you may find that the bird you work with starts to try and look through *your* mind and eyes.

If you are walking outside one day and you find that your sight is acting funny, that you are seeing things around you in a different way, and that you are feeling like a bird, then chances are the bird is experimenting with looking through your mind and eyes. Their energy is very different from ours and is subtle, so you may not notice the bird moving into you until it tries to 'see': then you will definitely feel it.

As your links build with the bird, they will learn how to energetically warn you. For some this comes as a sudden belly feeling; for me it comes through my inner senses, so that I can sense the energy of whatever is coming. It's hard to explain, but when a bird or creature warns you it is very distinctive from your own inner senses, yet it still works through them.

Just be aware that some birds and creatures can cope with this sort of

¹Remember the method of passing into rock? It is essentially the same technique.

contact and some cannot. Crows are the best birds to work with. We have two cats and I work with them magically, too. One is perfectly happy with me getting in his mind, communing with him, and showing him things. The other is not: it freaks her out and the moment I try it, she bolts. So tread gently and respectfully. And be aware that should you go down this road in your magical work it will be a two-way street: if you move into animals and birds, then they will move into you.

Guardians of waterways and springs

You have learned to work with waterways by connecting to the beings within them, and sometimes to the goddesses in water. Now it is time to learn to work with the animal and faery spirits that often guard particular springs, wells, and natural ponds. You can also come across these guardians at certain river heads—the area where springs and bogs start a river.

When connecting and working with these guardians, you are connecting not only with a guardian but also with an interpreter and go-between who will work between humans and the river consciousness. This has a variety of magical applications, and these guardians can teach you a lot about the specifics of what that spring does, what its power is, and how to work with it.

Different springs have different powers: some are healing springs, some carry warrior power, and some are storytellers that tell of the area's energetic history—teaching springs.

The sorts of creatures that guard springs are ravens, crows, owls, bears, boars, and pigs. Sometimes these guardians also manifest as physical creatures. For example I have come across sacred springs guarded by crows, owls, snakes, and bears. In one of the areas where I grew up there was an ancient warrior spring that in the past was guarded by a boar: it was called the Boars' Well. I used to visit it often, and what came out of the spring was a power aligned to female warriors.

The spring's guardian showed me women who used to live near the spring who forged swords. When I researched this I found that the spring area had indeed a profusion of Iron Age smelting works, female bones, and the remnants of sword making. This research after the vision work told me I had made a clear contact, and I started working much more closely with the guardian. In the local history there were tales of a wild

boar that lived by the spring and terrorised anyone who came near it. A local hero killed the boar and showed off its head to the local lord. This enraged the power of the springs and the energy in the area became antagonistic towards people.

The guardian, the inner boar spirit, taught me a great deal, and I learned much about defence, healing wounds, and the power of battle within women. They in turn were happy that a female human was prepared to work with them and not abuse them.

To find and make friends with a guardian of a spring, first you have to find a spring that is in fact guarded. One way to do this is to go out on the inner landscape and see what's there. The other way is to visit the spring physically, sit down in silent meditation, and see what turns up. Your very presence as a magician in meditation will trigger the guardian, and it will come to see who you are and what your intentions are.

Never antagonise or threaten a spring guardian: they can be far more powerful than they appear and will strike you if they feel you are a threat to the springs. Simply sit, be still, and when something turns up, be it an odd-looking faery being or an animal spirit, stay still and let them check you out. If they can commune with you then answer their questions and tell them you wish to learn. Once you have been there physically it will be easier for you to go there in vision, and you should visit fairly often.

If you are there physically then show that you are a magical servant by picking up any litter and moving things that need moving, or sit and sing to the spring.² If the guardian charges at you then stand your ground silently and bow to them. If you take some food with you then ensure it is non-animal, chemical-free food that will not harm any creatures. For example don't take chocolate, which is an animal killer. Leave the food by the spring for the guardian, and a bright coin or gift for the spring itself.

Lie down and go to sleep by the spring, or simply sit in meditation, until a communion starts. Learn as much as you can about the spring, ask if you can drink some, ask if the spring needs your help, and ask if you can work with the spring when you need to.

As a magician these springs can be worked with in all sorts of ways. You can be simple and drink the water, or bathe in it when you need healing and cleaning; you can work with the spring to charge a sword or blade by placing it in the water; you can dispense information, gather information; or you can use the water to diffuse fire energy around you

²Water always likes sound.

when you have been attacked by fire.

If that stage of work goes well and you are of good use to the spring then the guardian and the spring will give you gifts of energy/power as and when you need them. If you are ill then the spring will pass on energy to you via the guardian. Sometimes the guardian will keep an eye on you—or even guard you—in times of need. Some spring guardians have a very small territory and do not go beyond it, but others seem to reach much further afield, and faery guardians in particular will follow you home and watch over you in times of great need.

Like all faery and land being work this is instinctive, unpredictable, and cannot be regulated. You have to work out for yourself what is happening, how something works, and how to build solid, long-term relationship with these powers. Just remember: guardians of springs can be some of the most powerful of all land beings and animal spirits, so tread carefully and respectfully. Also remember that though they are powerful they are also vulnerable. These places are becoming more and more attacked and polluted by humans, so in turn they withdraw their power from the land and go into hibernation. When this happens, the health of the land and the nearby people will slowly deteriorate and fade. This is when you can be of service.

If you live near one of these places, visit often, upkeep it, and make friends with its guardian. If the guardian comes home with you then make a space for them in your home, away from your magical room. They will build an energetic bridge between the spring and your home, so that the spring's power is around you and you are around it. This can lead to a deep and powerful relationship with the spring and the guardian, and if you are planning to specialise as a healer or an exorcist then it will come in handy. However, do not forge such strong bonds if you are not planning to live in that area for a long time. They will expect you to stick around and work with them for the long term.

Faery beings of the forests

Faery beings that you find in forests and wild areas are different to those in rock outcrops or near human settlements. Although few people live near or in forests, as a magician you need to know about them and if possible work with them, as you are likely, at some point, to cross paths with them.

The wilder and more primal the forest, the more feral, dangerous, and wonderful its faery denizens can be. If they are conducive to human contact—usually this is in places which have not been laid waste to or polluted by humans—then you can make friends and work with them on environmental magic and also the healing of humans and animals. However if the forest has been abused, particularly in spots special to them, then they can be hostile.

Rather than spend hours writing about the various types of forest beings, which could take a very long time, it is better that you find out about them for yourself. If you have a chance at some point to visit a heavily wooded area then go and spend time there alone. Walk through the trees and talk to them as you go. Pay your respects to the goddesses that often emerge in such places, whom we will cover in another of this module's lessons, and let your inner senses guide you to spots with more concentrated energy.

Find a spot to sit down, then walk around the forest in vision. Keep an awareness of any beings that try to follow you, or that appear, or that confront you. If you make contact then talk to them about your work and learning, and ask them about what they need from you. Often they just wish you to honour and respect the forest, then leave them alone. But making contact and being of service if they ask for help will forge bonds that can be mutually beneficial.

These are, like all faery beings, not cute Disney characters: they are powerful and can be vicious if threatened. They do not have your best interests at heart; their allegiance lies with the forest, not humans. However, if you befriend the forest then they will come to you if they need you, and you can go to them. There are some forest beings with remarkable healing powers, just like springs, and they will help you if it is in their interests. And so too, humans can be very useful: we are physical beings who can bring things, take things away, move things, and so forth.

One bit of service you can do, which is also a good exercise for your learning, is to go to a forest or grove of trees, sit down, and in vision go to the lake at the edge of the stars, the lake with the trees around it that lead to the Inner Library. Put yourself in that vision, then see the trees around you as part of the trees around the lake: you fuse the two together. This is a powerful service to forests, and it is like a homeopathic catalyst for them: it plugs them back into the sacred pattern of creation and retunes the land and forest.

The connection between the inner and outer place is often damaged

by human encroachment, human tree plantations, and so forth. You can give back by reconnecting the trees in vision: they can utilise the vision to retune and refocus. Trees are also full of consciousness and are like a hive community: by helping one you help them all. You have already done some work with trees and goddesses within them. By revisiting some of your notes and work and applying what you learned to a local forest, or one you visit on holiday, then you will find yourself befriending faery beings of that forest.

Although connection and communion often happens in vision, these beings also have the energetic ability to affect substance. This means that they can affect your body, the ground around you, the local animals, and so forth. If they are present around you as you spend time in the forest then you will experience some interesting physical phenomena, either with the animals, the nearby trees, or by the faeries themselves touching you. Sometimes you may be guided to physical cues, so keep your eyes open for strange things in the forest.

If you are nowhere near such a place and cannot get to one then you can experiment by going to such a place in vision. Choose a forest known to be ancient or untouched, and go there in vision. Tread carefully, as you could encounter any number of beings, and not all of them will be friendly. It is a poor second option compared to physically going to a forest, but if you live in a sprawling city with no wild nature around for hundreds of miles then using vision is a way to try to connect with these particular types of faery beings.

Like all faery contacts, a magician's reasons for, and the anticipated benefits to, making these contacts are as varied as magic itself. Do not limit your practice and study; explore, interact, and learn about everything in the world around you. Such connections and knowledge can come in useful in the weirdest ways.

As an aside, talking about faery beings and magicians, I had an odd encounter just yesterday. It was my birthday, and my husband and I went out for lunch in the nearest city. I do not leave the valley where I live very much while I am working on the course, as my energies need to be protected and conserved. Halfway through the meal I started to feel odd, as if I should not be in the restaurant. My body reacted to the food³ even though I have no allergies to anything I was eating. I thought nothing of it.

When I came to pay for the meal and held the card reader in my hand, a lot of crazy energy suddenly started up around me. The card reader

³Hives.

began bleeping and clocked up a total of 530,788 British pounds, then it crashed. It would not reconnect and it kept happening until finally it behaved and the payment went through. I do sometimes affect electrical things, particularly anything with a chip, so I assumed it was that. But as I turned to leave the restaurant a faery being flashed its face in front of me, a form of mind projection, and said: “now will you come home?!”

The house was in energetic chaos when I got back and it took a while to calm things down. The faery beings that hang out around the house were disturbed by my leaving on that particular day, and they were trying to hold something until I got back home. These beings come out of the local forest, and a couple of them spend time around the house, usually outside, and they keep an eye on me because I help the local forest. They are connected with the ravens and crows that hang out with me and who are deeply connected to the goddess that flows out of the forest behind our house.

The projection of faces is also a technique that you should learn as a magician. It is used a lot by faery beings and other types of land beings with faces. If a being cannot directly communicate with you over a distance then they will project a face at you, a bit like sending a message saying “call home,” “come home,” or “I need you.” The face will suddenly appear in your mind out of nowhere, strongly, and with urgency. Animals closely bonded with humans will also do this when under stress or if they fear you have left them.

This is a technique that you can learn and practise to project your face to other humans as well as animals, faery beings, etc. It uses a similar form to the *dripping tap* method of projection, but it is stronger and more immediate. It can also be practiced without hurting anyone.

Still yourself with a short meditation, then choose a person connected to you, like a partner or a family member. See their face clearly in your mind. Build up that picture strongly, then see yourself before them. Send a clear, simple message like “call me” to them. You can also use the dripping tap method by stopping what you are doing every half hour and projecting yourself and the message to them until they contact you.

How quickly they respond depends on how naturally psychic they are. Some respond quickly; others may contact you a few days later and say “oh, you kept coming into my mind, how are you doing?”

I have used this method for many years to contact my kids, partners, and pets from a distance. If someone close to you is in distress then you can use this method to maintain a presence around them in times of diffi-

culties. I also use it to let my house pets know I am coming home, and to find them or comfort them if they are lost.

Once you have mastered this skill then you can use it to connect with faery beings out on the land; and once that form of communion is established then they will use it too to 'flash contact' you if they need you. Most communion with faery beings is through the mind and inner energies. Once this form of communication is established with them then you and they can call back and forth when there is danger or need. The local forest here will flash me if someone is hurting them or there is a danger to the forest. It has also happened when danger is approaching me and I am not aware of it or they think I have missed it.

All work and contact with faery beings is natural and fluid, and not ritualised or formalised. If you connect and work with them then it will become part of your everyday life and work. Just be aware that if you make a promise to faery beings to do something or be a certain way, then *never go back on that agreement*. They will expect you to keep your word and will explode in fury if you do not.

And this rule is a general one in magic. It is one of the reasons a magician should avoid making vows, promises, or deals unless they are absolutely sure they can keep them. It is always best to agree to things on an individual, short-term basis, with an end point. But if a major agreement is made then stick to it. It may not be major to you, but it will be to them.

For instance I was once asked by a local ancient oak forest to stay away: they did not want humans going there as it was a major threat to them. I agreed. So no matter what I must never go there again: it is a special place, a sacred place, and they want no connection with humans. Tourists do still go there, and I do not know what happens to them as a result, but I do know that my going there is not in their best interests. It was not a rejection of me; they were saying that I would likely bring in a tree disease on my shoes, and the human energy is not conducive to them. So I respect that and keep away. If the same happens to you in one of these places then do not feel rejected: we have to learn that sometimes the best gift we can give nature is our absence.

Deserts/Djinn

Deserts have a particular land power that defines the inner beings that reside there, just as vast ice areas do. I have not lived for any great length

of time in deserts, but I have visited and stayed in them, and I found the land beings and faery beings there to be powerful, sometimes hostile, and sometimes just troublesome.

What are called *Djinn* in Arabic desert areas are faery beings: the word Djinn is simply the Arabic name for what we call faery and land beings. To find out more about Djinn in the Near and Middle East, a good book to start with is one called *Jinn in the Qur'an and the Sunna* by Mustafa Ashour. It looks at these beings in religious terms, so you will have to pick through the dogma for insights into these beings' actions and presentations, and also their relationships with the people of the land there.

Another good place to look, if you live in the USA, is in the folk tales and mythology of the Navajo and Pueblo Indians. When I was staying on the Navajo reservation in the desert I encountered *desert runners*, a type of faery being that moves at great speed across the desert and consumes anything in its path. It was fast, powerful, and frightened the shit out of me, but it did not harm me. It checked me out, decided I was okay, and ran off. Phew!

You will often find, with these encounters, that if your energy and your heart's voice indicates that you honour the land and its beings then your stupidity will be patiently endured by its denizens—so long as you are willing to learn. They will often test you to see if you are greedy, stupid, or arrogant; in which case they will engage a power that we know as the Unraveller. They will offer things to you to see whether you bite or use your common sense. This is why it is so important for you to learn about these creation dynamics, as they will pop up in all sorts of strange places in your magical interactions.

Whenever you encounter a powerful spirit, faery, or land power, always draw on what you know of the creation powers, as those powers and dynamics run through everything. Make your decisions and actions compatible with those powers, and when in doubt draw on your knowledge to decide what to do.

I cannot write a lot about desert spirits, as my encounters with them have not been deep enough to do that. However if you live in a desert area then you can use the methods outlined in this module to explore, connect, and discover. I am sure you will make some mistakes, but that is how we learn. Keep close records of your encounters so that others in the future may benefit from your learning. Go out in the desert, both physically and in vision, and learn as much as you can.

Divination

Throughout this module you will be looking at and working with various encounters with land spirits. One of the magical methods you can employ to help you in your explorations is divination. Using the Quareia Magician's Deck and the Landscape layout, do readings for various different land areas you know of: rock outcrops, plains, water areas, forests, deserts, mountains, and so forth. Ask questions like: "Show me the land power and the beings that reside in this area." You can also use yes/no layouts like the Tree of Life to look at questions like "Do the land beings of this area want a connection with magical humans like me?" "Are they amenable to contact with me?" "Would they be happy if I worked with them?"

You can also use the Mystical Map layout to get a deep overview of the land beings there and see which type of being is more dominant, and whether there is a strong deity there. The deities will show either as creation/destruction forces, in which case they will not have modified their energy to interact with humans, or they may show as 'people' cards: *Goblin Queen* (wilder female land deity), *Priestess Queen* (goddess used to working with humans), the *Leader* (male deity power), *Faery King*, and so forth. The descriptions of the cards will tell you about their power and accessibility.

The reading may also show ancestors in the land—*Blood Ancestor*—or a collective ancestral contact willing to commune with living humans—*Ancestral Temple*. The *Ancestral Temple* card can also appear if there is literally an ancient temple in the land, hidden away.

Use different layouts to find out what is there, who they are, and how willing they are to work with magicians. It is best to go and do the visionary work before the readings. Keep records of your readings so that you can go back and look at them over time as your understanding deepens.

Astrology

It is nearly impossible to do a natal chart for a patch of land, as its birth was too long into the past for us to fathom. However, if you do decide to

work an area of land and you work with the faery beings as a long-term project, then you can still keep an eye on the astrological ‘weather’ and how it correlates with events in that area and how work/contacts with the beings goes at particular times.

Faery and land beings are strongly affected by tides of energy such as the weather and the influences of the stars and planets. It is a good exercise to choose a piece of land that you work with and where you interact with the land powers, to keep an eye on the land’s astrological tides to see how the interactions with the beings shift during particular long-term and short-term astrological alignments. And don’t just look at the planetary aspects, also look at the shapes in the chart formed by the aspects between the planets: look for triangles (male or female power gates), the four-directional gates appearing (something coming in or going out), and so forth.

The aspect lines that form patterns create gateways, influences, and structures that a magician can learn to work within, avoid, or engage with. Keep good notes and the charts, as they will be handy references to look back on. The way to run a chart for an area at a given time is to run a chart for that location at a given time, then look at it.

Working with the tools

Another series of experiments you can try, if you have chosen a patch of land and its beings to work with, is taking magical tools, one at a time, to that area and noting how the beings react to them.

You may find that with one particular tool, the beings all suddenly appear, gather around, or ask you to use it to do something: limit, guard, dispense, call in, anchor something, release something, and so forth. This is all experimental work and will be individual to you. Keep notes, and use your inner senses to find your way forward in this work.

Just be aware that if you take a tool to a place, and if it is needed, then you may be asked to work, and to turn down that work would be rude. If you walk in with a magical tool and a skill that can help, and you turn down a request for help, then it will likely cause a permanent break in contact. So only do this if you are willing to follow through.

You may also find that in return you are gifted a powerful but often seemingly irrelevant present: a feather, a rock, a stick, and so forth. When

they are given under such circumstances, they will have a power within them you can work with. If you are not sure what it is then simply keep the gift safe: its purpose will become apparent with time. Sometimes I have hung on to these gifts for years before I finally understand what they are and how they can help me.

Cities

And finally, for those of you who live in cities and do not have access to wild areas, forests, mountains, deserts, and so forth, you will have to become an explorer and find out if something is around you in terms of land beings and faeries.

Some cities do have these beings living there, and others do not: it all depends on what is under the city in terms of land and archaeology, and what is living within the city. Some cities have powerful beings nearby or faery beings that have adjusted to living silently alongside humans; other cities have little if anything. The only way you can find out is to look. Use the methods you have learned, done, and read about, and do your own research into that city. Sometimes you will find an ancient hill, or sacred river, over which the city has spread, or certain trees, waterways, caves, old buildings, and so forth that may be a hotspot for faery beings.

Do outer research and inner exploration, and adjust and adapt the working methods to work in a city to see what is where and why. Keep records and notes, do readings, charts, and visions, and work with the birds that populate the city. There are no rules, there are only situations that need a curious mind and a willingness to explore.

If there are presences in the city then they will probably need your help, work, and friendship: don't just look and move on. Be willing to help: do your bit to help them survive and flourish. In return you will likely develop a longstanding connection and friendship with these beings. Just always keep an awareness of their differences from humanity, never take anything for granted, and understand that you will likely make mistakes, upset them, or do something stupid. Just always go in with clear and balanced intentions, and don't let them bullshit you or lead you up a path of glamour.

QUAREIA

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