



QUAREIA—THE INITIATE

Module X—Preparation for Adept hood

Lesson 6: The Staff

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.

For more information and all course modules please visit

www.quareia.com

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 X—Preparation for Adepthood

Lesson 6: The Staff

His heart is righteous, and it hath come forth from the Balance; it hath not sinned against any god or any goddess. Thoth hath weighed it according to the decree pronounced unto him by the Company of the Gods, and it is most true and righteous. Grant thou that cakes and ale may be given unto him, and let him appear in the presence of the god Osiris, and let him be like unto the Followers of Horus for ever and ever.

—*Papyrus of Ani*

This section of the preparation for adepthood marks the point where the magician has loosened his relationship with the tools of magic, has prepared him or herself, and is now ready to step in a different frequency of magic. The shift heralds the appearance of the *Staff of Life* as a magical companion and co-worker for the magician.

In the apprentice training it was stressed repeatedly that the wand has no real place in magic, as it is a tool for control which has repeatedly blighted magicians with the power of the Unraveller. The rod/wand has become proliferate in magic that it has turned into a magical orthodoxy which can be hard to deprogram magicians from.

In the apprentice section you were also briefly introduced to scenarios in ancient texts where the magical staff was wielded as a wand or rod:

it was used to project magic as an act of control, which always ended badly. The magical staff is not a wand and should not be used as such: it is a being, a companion for the adept that can light the way in darkness, shield them in times of danger, and advise them in times of confusion. It holds its own power which is unique to each staff, and will not be controlled or directed by anyone or anything.

There are different types of magical staffs: the difference is the frequency of the staff's power and what it is tuned to. The magician taps into their own wisdom and discipline to carry the staff: they either become the power of Restriction to the staff's creative power, or the Creative principle to its destructive power.

In the early days of an adept's training they become used to working with the Staff of Life: the magical staff of the Creative principle. They work together as a team, not as magician and tool. The staff keeps a presence around the magician, and the magician becomes the counterweight for the creative power of life that flows through the staff.

And like all things on the narrow path, the relationship between the staff and the magician is a tenuous one: all it takes to destroy their union is a moment of weakness in the magician when they are tempted to wield the staff like a magical wand. That one act of unwise control breaks the union forever, and it cannot be brought back. Remember the story in Exodus of Moses, his staff, and the rock? That is a shining example of what not to do with the Staff of Life, and what can happen when it all goes badly wrong.

So now it is time to trigger the Staff of Life and make friends with it. The inner staff arrived first in your magical life; then you went out to find the outer vessel to house the staff. Now it is time to bring the two together. This only works once the magician has been accepted as being on the path of the Justified, and is trusted by the deities to carry the Staff of Life wisely. It will be a companion, guard, advisor, lantern, and strengthener in times of danger.

Task: Preparation

Prepare your staff by taking off the dead bark and oiling the staff to protect its skin. Once the oil has sunk in and been fully absorbed, polish the whole surface of the staff with wax. You may need to put on a few layers of wax over a few days, to let it sink in and build up a good skin.

Do not use chemicals on the staff, and do not stick or write anything on it: that would interfere with the staff's vessel quality.

On the cusp of your adept training you learn to carry the staff in its natural form with the power within it. Once you have fully grasped all the layers of power that can run through a staff, then later, a staff can be formed and connected to a specific power, and its outer appearance will have a form that focuses that specific power. To get an idea of the different forms of power that can flow through a staff, look at the various forms of staff and sceptre carried by the deities, and later the monarch, in Ancient Egypt.

Once the staff is ready, dab it on the top, centre, and bottom with frankincense oil, then take it outside and expose it to the sunshine, which gives it energy. Sit with it for an hour or so in the sunlight, sitting or standing in a place where the sun's rays fall directly on it. Once it is energised, bring it back indoors: it is now ready to be completed.

Task: Completion of the staff

The first stage of the staff's magical preparation is done ritually; the second is done in vision. Prepare your work space, put out the candles in the directions, have your scales out on the west altar with the vessel, have your cord on the south altar, and place the staff on the central altar. Be aware of the inner staff still on the south altar.

Light the lights, open the gates, and commune with the powers on the threshold that come forward in each direction. Starting in the east, approach the east altar and say:

“People of the Place of Gathering, gods and goddesses of the Great Hall, all who are of the east, I have stood before the scales and been found Justified. Witness my union with the Staff of Life, and I accept your guidance as I learn and develop.”

Bow to the assembled presences at the threshold, and see them all gathered in the Halls beyond the east gate.

Now go and repeat the same speech in each direction, so that the assembled priests, priestesses, and magicians of the Place of Gathering

are acknowledged, and the gods and goddesses of the Great Hall that holds the scales are also acknowledged.

From the north, turn around, go to the central altar, and pick up the staff with your left hand.

Still yourself, then place your right hand over your left as your left hand grips the staff. Say:

“Right hand that glows with the light of the Scales, cover my left hand that glows with the power of the Limiter, and guide my left hand so that it is always aware of the consequences of action, and so that my actions will be immediately weighed on the Great Scales. With my left hand I forge forward with the companion, the Staff of Life, and with my right hand I weigh the fruits of my magic.”

This declaration ensures that you fully understand the checks and balances that will flow through the magic of an adept.

Take a step back, bow to the central flame, and walk to the south altar. Kneel down on your left knee and hold the staff in your left hand. Place your right hand on the altar where the inner staff still resides.

Close your eyes and go in vision. See the path of black and white stretching off in the distance. The lantern that shines over your left shoulder casts a bright golden light onto the squares. The golden light grows stronger so that all you can see is a path of gold stretching off in the distance.

Your right hand becomes full of light from the lantern’s power, so that you can fully see your own actions. Nothing can be hidden from you, and you can hide nothing from yourself. Pick up the inner staff and hold it up in your right hand. In an action both visionary and physical, bring the two staffs together in front of you and fuse them into one. Hold them in that position while seeing them together within each other in vision.

Be aware of the vague presence that has been around you. Feel that presence flow through you from behind and into the physical staff: the companion. In vision, see the staff spring to life and be full of a powerful bright golden light. The light also has darkness within it, it has fire within it, and you feel the breath of the wind in it. Physically place the bottom of the staff on the floor so that it stands before you, with your left hand gripping it and your right hand over your left hand: the position of *the power of holding*.

As you kneel holding the staff in this way, in vision you become aware of lines of many people on either side of you, all kneeling in the same position, with their staffs before them and their hands held in the same position as yours. All other adepts, priests, priestesses, and monarchs from all times and all places, all accepting the Staff of Life in their own time and place.

Place your forehead to the staff and feel into it with your mind: feel how its power has awoken, feel the consciousness of the companion, and feel a bond between you begin to form.

As you feel that connection, be aware of the bright path before you growing longer and longer and its light getting stronger. The power of Creation of life within the staff is unchecked, and leaving that way it will cause unchecked growth within you. It needs limitation, and that limitation is your own time that was measured by Decima.

Open your eyes; pick up your cord, and wrap it around the staff carefully and tightly, like a snake winding around a tree. As you wind the cord, say:

“Staff of Life I give you limit, and fate I give you time. Serpent of wisdom may you guide the power of creation, and power of creation may you listen to the wisdom of the serpent.”

Close your eyes and look at the staff in vision. You see the tree of brightness, of life, the power of the life-giving goddess, and around it winds the serpent. The eyes of the serpent look back and forth as it guards, its fangs bared.

With your right hand move as if to stroke the serpent, and when it lunges at you, move your hand away quickly. Now do it again, and the serpent sprays venom on you, but misses your hand. Now do it a third time: again move your hand quickly as the serpent lunges at you. Once more you are harmlessly sprayed with venom.

The snake closes its mouth. Quickly place your right hand on its head in a gesture of friendship and respect. Remove it before the serpent lunges again: this time it sticks its fangs into the staff, but no venom is released. The snake bites deeper until it vanishes into the staff and becomes one with it. Its power will guard the staff and you, and the staff will become the serpent who guards and guides the Justified adept.

Watch as the venom that was sprayed at you spreads over your skin

without being absorbed: it offers you some immunity from the venom of inner snakes and hostile snake magic.

Stand up, keeping your eyes closed and holding the vision. You can use the brief time while the staff's power settles in to learn the staff's basic actions. But remember, this is not a tool working; it is an extension of you and the power that flows through you. As such these actions will draw directly from you. Do them physically while also seeing them in vision.

See the path ahead in vision. Now tilt the head of the staff towards the path: see it light up brighter, and see scenes come and go on the path— aspects of the future. Tilting the staff forward opens things, including the future: any pathways, any barriers, and so forth. Now place the bottom of the staff on the floor and tilt the staff backwards, towards the back left, while keeping it in contact with the floor: this closes or hides the path ahead.

Hold the staff in the centre with your left hand and pick it up horizontally, holding it out in front of you. Hold out your right hand in a 'stop' position. The staff creates a threshold or block, and the right hand adds restriction: this can be used to prevent something or some being entering somewhere, and can drive back powers.

Now hold the staff upright before you, its bottom touching the ground, and see into it with your inner vision. Now in vision, step into the staff while holding it: let yourself move into the staff and feel its power, its presence, and its vessel power. Stay within that presence until you are ready to come out. Commune with the staff if you wish to while within it. When needed, you can move in vision into the staff if you need to briefly vanish from an inner point of view.

Open your eyes and place the staff on the floor in front of the south altar. Go around the directions staring in the east, bow to the assembled witnesses, thank them, then close down the direction. Leave the centre flame going and leave the room for a short while so that the staff can bathe in the power of the central flame.

When you feel it is done, go back in, close down the central flame, and put your staff away somewhere in the south of the room, or in the south of the house somewhere.

Care of the staff

The staff must be properly looked after, as it is an extension of you and your magic, as well as a vessel for the consciousness and power that resides within it. Do not let other people touch it or handle it, never let someone pick it up and wave it around, and keep it away from fires.

Your cord should stay on it for a while, so secure it properly. Some magicians take the cord off and store it away safely; others leave the cord on the staff. You will figure out for yourself which is the better option for you, and each decision has its pros and cons.

Once you have worked with it for a while, you could try working with it without the cord. If all is well, then put the cord away: necessity is always the key, and if the staff works well enough for you without the cord, then take it off to protect the cord.

If you sit and think about it, and think about the Staff of Life being an *Opener of the Way* and your cord being your *fate measure*, you will come to understand how the cord works with the staff, or how the cord on the staff can cause fate patterns to set in place. It is a complex relationship between the two, so use what you know and what skills you now have to decide which way you wish to work.

Use of the staff

The staff, besides being the *Opener of the Way*, is also the snake that can go into places, the snake that guards you, and an extension of your arm that can limit, hold, or release.

In the adept section you will be guided to use the staff in rituals and visions, and from that use you will learn a lot about it. And there is a difference between using the staff with the cord on and with the cord off: with the cord on, it holds your fate measure and keeps the path open for it. However if, for example, you lay the staff down next to someone in your family who is very ill or weak, they may draw on your measure to strengthen their own lifespan.

So if you keep the cord on the staff, it should never be used for, or be around, others who may draw on it. If as an adept you are going to be

working around others, say as a healer, an exorcist, or a teacher, then your cord must be locked away safely. It must never be on your staff if you are working for others. But if as an adept you plan to work in solitude for the land, or deep in the inner worlds on long-term projects, then it will hold your measure and keep the path open for you.

Never point the staff at anyone, never hit anything with it, and never be tempted to use it as a direct tool: it is your extension and companion. If you use its power as a tool, then its power may rebound on you.

Through the various rituals and visions in the adept section, you will learn more and more about the staff's applications and its various ways of working. At this phase of your training, don't be tempted to play with it or experiment with it as a tool; rather treat it as a potential bomb that you can trigger accidentally. The more you learn about it, the more you will be able to work successfully and safely with it.

And the more you work with it, the more you will come to understand the relationship between the staff and the creative and destructive powers, and how those powers flow through you: the staff acts as a lens, focusing powers so that they can be projected accurately.

But it is also its own consciousness, and if you try to do something unwise with the staff then it will resist or warn you. So learn to listen to it, take advice from it, and in return give it your respect and friendship, and love it as part of yourself.

Store the staff somewhere near you but safe from curious hands. If you have a designated magical space then keep it there. If not, depending on who lives with you and may have curious hands, then it can stand quietly in a corner by the front door, by your bedside, or in a quiet corner of a room.

Do not forget its presence, and always talk to it mentally when you pass it: build up a being-to-being relationship with it and learn to listen. There may be times when it unexpectedly asks you to pick it up and keep it close: often when it does that you are either in potential inner or outer danger, or your deeper spirit is working on something that your conscious mind is unaware of, but your spirit has need of the staff's power.

Many magicians name their staffs, and they become very close companions. Sometimes, once that relationship has settled in, the staff will occasionally lead you to various sticks and branches that hold specific qualities to them, like snake power, lightning power, and faery consciousness. These

are not staffs or wands; they are like tuning forks that bring those qualities to you and your home. When that happens, simply find them a place to live in your home and let them just get on with whatever they are doing. You will find they sleep for long periods of time, then suddenly spring to life. When this happens you will find that your staff wishes to be placed near them, as if they were working together.

There may come a day when the staff breaks, and another vessel will need to be found for the power before it dissipates. We will look at this in the adept section. But for now, whenever you do anything magical, have the staff with you, either as an extension of you or as a companion close by you.

When you work with the staff in your left hand, it joins with the power of the Limiter in your arm, and those two seemingly opposing powers work together. When you work with the staff in your right hand, it speaks on your behalf, as the lantern light in your right hand holds all your deeds: its light comes from your own evolution.

QUAREIA

COPYRIGHT

© Josephine McCarthy 2016

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, distributed, or transmitted in any form or by any means, including photocopying, recording, or other electronic or mechanical methods, without the prior written permission of the publisher.