



The adapted Quareia Apprentice initiation ritual
-for students in countries that practice Ancestor veneration.

Explanation of why this alternative initiation lesson exists

It has been brought to my attention that the Initiatory lesson that bridges the Apprentice to Initiate has caused some problems for some students in China and other eastern countries that practice ancestor worship/veneration. This confusion and difficulty is caused in part by the word 'ancestor' having a slightly different meaning or understanding in the west than it does in some eastern countries.

With specific reference to the initiatory lesson at the end of the Apprentice section, the word 'ancestors' refers to members of your recent blood line who are now dead. It does not refer to founding ancestors, mythic ancestors and heroes, Immortals etc. The Chinese Immortals, founding ancestors and mythic heroes are included in the meaning of the words 'inner contacts', 'spirits' and 'deities' in all Quareia texts.

The reason that part of the ritual exists is to break connection with recent ancestors whose spirit still carries cries for vengeance, or who wish to cling to life by living through you – this can particularly occur where there is a history of war, conflict, etc that the ancestor wants you to continue that conflict. It is also about filtering out 'bad ancestors' – we all have at least one person in our family lines that was corrupt, vicious, or generally a bad person, and they can try to bind themselves to you under certain circumstances.

However, such a cultural difference can cause worry or distress for the student magician, and I do not wish to inadvertently cause any break between a student and their culture, or any heritage that has existed for generations.

With that in mind, I have re written and reworked magically the ancestor parts of the initiatory ritual for people who are from cultures with ancestor veneration. It will still work just in a slightly different way, and as the student progresses towards adeptship, they will figure out how to say no to any recent ancestors that wish to manipulate the magician.

Students from countries that have Ancestor worship can choose to either do the original Initiation ritual, or they can do choose to do this one.

It may mean that the future path of the student magician might be slightly different because of the change in the ritual, but that might be a good thing for a magician in a culture that works with Ancestor veneration.

This adapted ritual takes out any action of severing connections with any ancestor. The student cleanses the path of any unhealthy imbalances that they may still carry from their own past behaviour, and they connect the path of their ancestors to the path of the future of the magician. The path to the stars in the future and the path of the ancestors from the past are connected together as one.

The adapted Apprentice initiation ritual *-for students in countries that practice Ancestor veneration*



QUAREIA - THE APPRENTICE

Initiate Lesson

To be done before midnight on the night of the new moon following the events experienced in the Inner Library

This is the 81st lesson of the Apprentice training, the bridge that opens the way for deeper magical development as an Initiate. In many magical lodges and schools, the initiation is a ceremonial ritual aspect of the lodge which formally recognises the stages of the magician's development. It is witnessed by members of the lodge and allows the recipient to claim a degree of development with that specific lodge: hence you cannot self-initiate into an organisation.

There is also another type of initiation, an older form that does not involve ceremony, witnesses, granting of grades, and so forth. This initiation is the crossing of the inner threshold. This is an initiatory step that is between the aspiring magician and the inner world. It does not give you a badge to show off to your friends; rather it marks you in the inner worlds so that inner contacts, beings, other magicians with inner sight, and inner adepts know instantly that you have achieved your apprentice work and have chosen to step beyond everyday life.

That process began in the inner library after your last round of work: you shed the skin of everyday life and stepped forward, ready to begin the long walk of the path of the Mysteries. All your training until now has been preparing you so that you can step onto that road safely and productively. With your acquired skills, if you have done your work properly, you will have enough tools and knowledge at your disposal to pass through the various gates of the Mysteries.

The apprentice training has also been educating you in the two polarised forces that come into play at this initiatory working, so that when you do it, it works and it works powerfully.

And this is how Quareia protects itself. If someone who has not done the work reads this lesson and tries to do it, they will fail miserably, as the keys that unlock this gate were embedded in the magician throughout their apprentice training. If an outsider reads this lesson, they will understand it one way, while the magician who has done their work will see and understand far more and will be able to 'switch it on.' This is why there is no need for secrecy: the Mysteries protect themselves. They blossom within the worker, and evade the curious.

Make sure that you understand that the work you will do in this lesson is a bridge, and a powerful bridge. It closes the door of the mundane ordinary life and opens the door of the life of the Mysteries. If you wish to only have a mundane ordinary life, then stop working with the Quareia lessons right here. Once the door is opened to the Mysteries, it cannot be closed, even if you turn away from magic and the Mysteries. Wherever you go, they will be there waiting for you.

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You need: a bowl of dry consecrated salt, clean water for your vessel, and something small of value to you like a ring (or buy a gold coin and use that). If you have no money, it must be something small and of real value to you. Do not stint on this if you can afford it: the inner worlds understand poverty well, but they do not accept less than the best you can give. This small gift is your fee to the ferryman who will carry your soul across the river from the mundane life to the life of the Mysteries.

The Visionary Ritual of Crossing from Apprentice to Initiate

After nightfall and at least an hour before midnight, set up your work space with the tools on the altars, and put the scales on the west altar. Take a ritual bath or cleansing (if you only have a shower) and put on clean clothing. Light the lights, open the gates, and do the anchor ritual to tune the room and yourself. When you have finished, pick up your bowl of consecrated salt and go to the north altar. Bow to the contacts and ancestors there, then turn your back on them so that you face the central altar.

Recite:

“Ancestors of my blood, ancestors of this land, thank you for the gift of my life. I step forward to forge a path to the stars that will connect to the path of the ancestors behind me”.

Take a small handful of salt in your left hand.

Recite:

“With this sacred salt I cleanse the path that is behind me of my own footsteps in life so far. I cleanse my former path of all energetic

remnants of hatred, vengeance, and feelings of injustice that I may still be carrying. I let those energetic remnants go so that I may walk forward in honour and strength. I do not look back to repeat my past mistakes, I look forward as I forge a path to the stars”.

Throw the salt over your right shoulder, to ritually cleanse the path behind you of any energetic remnants.

Now go to the west altar. Bow to the contacts there and turn to face the central altar. Take a small handful of salt in your left hand

recite:

“I cleanse from my scales anything that is not mine, and I submit to the scales of the Mysteries. No longer is my judgement to be of the mundane: my judgement will be that of the Mysteries.”

Throw the salt over your right shoulder to cleanse your scales of the mundane.

Now go to the south altar. Bow to the contacts there and turn your back on them. Scoop up a small handful of salt in your right hand

recite:

“My future is no longer forged by the fate of the mundane ordinary life: I renounce the path of the mundane and cleanse the path of my past actions.”

Throw the salt over your left shoulder to sever the fate link between you and the future of the mundane life. Place the bowl of salt under the central altar or at the foot of the altar on the south side.

Now go to the east altar. Bow to the contacts there

recite:

“The path is cleared and my feet are ready. I ask the contacts gathered to allow me to step forth across the threshold and pass from the life of the mundane to the life of the Mysteries.”

Stand there before the east altar until you become aware of a being stepping into the room from the east gate. You can do this with eyes closed or eyes open. However long it takes to become aware of their presence, simply wait. Once the being has stepped into the room, bow, circle round the directions and return to the east. Pick up the sword and place it on the central altar or propped up against the east side of the altar. Now go to the west and pick up the vessel filled with water and place it on the central altar. Go around to the south altar and lay the cord across the south altar.

Stand before the north altar, facing the central altar. Close your eyes. Still yourself. Be aware of the being standing in the room to the right of you. As you still yourself, be aware of the central flame before you and of the flame burning deep within you. Be aware of the stars above you and the land beneath you. Shift all your focus onto the central flame. As you focus on the flame, remember the stone temple room you visited in your last lesson where you shed your skin. Remember the four stone altars with the flames burning on each altar. Remember the angelic being who stood before you. Remember every little detail you can about that room and recover the feeling of it. The more you focus on it, the more you find yourself back in that room, and yet you are still aware of yourself standing in your work room: the two rooms merge together in your consciousness.

The angel from the stone temple once more stands before you in the south: this is the Utterer who teaches with air and limits by fire. The being that stepped out of the east, who is the Noble One, who now stands to the right of you. He will protect your scales to ensure that your future actions are weighed, but that none can interfere with your harvest. Another being steps out of the west gate and walks round the room to stand behind your left shoulder. This is the angel of Merciful Wisdom, the angel who will guide your hand of action and will place the burden of learning upon your shoulder.

You also become aware of someone stepping through the north gate and coming into the room to stand behind you. You cannot cast your mind to look and see who it is, but you can feel their presence: a powerful female goddess presence that brings the tides of creation and destruction with her: she is the Mother of all Living Things and is the first ancestor of every living thing. She will stand in silent witness to the ritual.

Stand in your stillness and keep your awareness of the stone temple with the four altars, the beings who are standing around you and the work room you are standing in. Do not let your mind wander and do not listen to your body if it complains about being tired.

The Noble One touches you upon your right shoulder. When you feel that touch, open your eyes while still holding the vision, and pick up your sword with your right hand.

Recite:

“Limiter, servant of the angel of Merciful Wisdom, tool of the Grindstone, I hold you in my right hand of justice and judgement. May my labours be merciful in true wisdom, and by holding you in my right

hand, I submit my work and actions to my own scales and judgement from this day on.”

The Noble One at your right shoulder places a hand upon your hand that is on the sword.

“My actions will be governed by my own Limiter, my actions will be judged by my scales while still in life—I accept this path.”

The Noble One pushes your hand to guide you to pass the sword from your right hand to your left hand. Hold the sword out in your left hand, point down, holding it to the side (east). Close your eyes and see the angel at your left shoulder keep one hand on your shoulder, and it places one hand upon the hilt of your sword. You feel the sword suddenly become a lot heavier. Turn your head to the sword, open your eyes and say:

“I accept you.”

Place the sword back by the central altar and close your eyes. Again see the stone temple room with the four altars, and see that your space and the stone temple space have become superimposed over each other: they are the same room. See the angelic beings around you and see your sword shining brightly in both rooms. Hold this vision and build it strongly.

When you have that vision nice and strong, open your eyes and pick up your vessel filled with water. Pick it up with your left hand and hold it in front of you.

Recite:

“My harvest is measured within this vessel, the vessel that carries the waters of the underworld river. On this day I pay my passage. Boatman, keep my seat.”

Pick up the valuable ring or coin and drop it in the water of the vessel. *“Waters of the underworld, wash from me the mundane that I may shine in the mysteries, so that my brothers and sisters will recognise me.”*

Pour water into your right hand and wash your face with it. (Don't worry about making a mess, you can always clean it up later.)

Close your eyes and in your mind see the angel of Merciful Wisdom place a hand upon your left hand that is holding the vessel. As you look at the hand of the angel you notice that it is covered in eyes. The angel prompts you to pass the vessel from your left hand to your right hand.

Recite:

“I pass this cup from my left hand of service to my right hand of judgement. Within it is balance of my actions, within it is my harvest that has been gathered upon the threshing floor. My work as an apprentice has been weighed.”

The Noble One who stands to your right touches the hand of the angel of Merciful Wisdom in reverence, then places his hand upon your right hand. He is the companion of your future, he is the companion who will witness that you weigh your own scales, and that you judge your own harvest for the rest of your life.

The angel of Merciful Wisdom releases their hand and replaces it on the sword. Open your eyes. Put the vessel on the central altar and then walk round the directions, still keeping the sense of the stone temple room.

Go to the north. Pick up the stone shield, the heart of the Mother. Place it to your forehead briefly in reverence to the goddess power within the stone, then turn and place it on the central altar between the sword and the vessel.

Kneel down on your right knee before the central altar, left leg/foot forward. Place your left hand upon your sword and your right hand upon your vessel. Close your eyes. See the angel of the stone temple room, the Utterer standing before you. In his right hand he holds the lashes of fire, in his left hand he holds a scroll.

When that vision or sense is strong, pick up the sword and hold it tip down, hilt up, right in front of you as if to deflect something. Pick up your vessel in your right hand and hold it to your heart.

The angel opens its mouth, holds the scroll towards you, and also holds up the lashes of fire.

You will see power flow from the mouth of the angel and you will see the power of the fire emanating from the lashes. The Utterer will send teaching to you as is necessary, and it will also attack you with the lashes of fire should you badly misuse your power. Bow your head and utter: *“I accept.”*

Accepting the gift of knowledge and the limitation of fire allows you to step over the threshold into the mysteries in your initiate training.

Open your eyes, stand up and bow to the Utterer, then place your tools back on the altar. The Utterer vanishes into the mists of the south, and

the two angels at your shoulder seem to also vanish, and yet you can still feel their hands upon your shoulders. They will always remain with you as a governing power. Circle the directions and be aware of those angelic presences still with you. The power from the north, the great goddess, slowly withdraws from the room.

Starting in the east, bow to the contacts, thank them, and put out the flame, but do not close the gates. Do the same in the other directions. Leave the sword, the stone, and the vessel on the altar or in the centre of the room so that they are all touching each other. Put everything else away. If you can, sleep in that room tonight.

Before you go to sleep, take the vessel with the ring/coin outside and take a small shovel with you if you do not live very close to a river or stream. If you live in total concrete and you have a car, drive to the nearest water or patch of land you can find. If you can get to water, pour the water and gift from the vessel into the river/spring, whatever. If you do not have water nearby, dig a small hole, pour the water in, and put the gift in it. It is really important that the water and the gift leave you before sunrise and before you go to sleep: it is paying your inner passage into your new life. The angelic and goddess presence will linger in the work room for as long as they need to, hence you did not shut the gates.

QUAREIA

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