

QVAREIA - THE APPRENTICE

Module 6 - Different Types of Beings
Lesson 2: Angels

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QVAREIA

WELCOME

Welcome to this lesson of the Quareia curriculum.

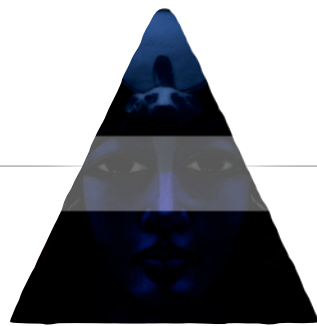
The Quareia takes a magical apprentice from the beginning of magic to the level of adeptship and beyond. The course has no superfluous text; there is no dressing, no padding – everything is in its place and everything within the course has a good reason to be there.

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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



QVAREIA - THE APPRENTICE

Module 6 - Different Types of Beings

Lesson 2: Angels

Angels appear quite a lot in Western magical and religious texts, as they are major world players in the acts of creation and destruction. As I mentioned in the earlier lesson, some religious/magical systems give angels different names, or approach them all as deities or spirits. This can cause a lot of confusion for a magical practitioner, as I am sure you have already discovered. But that is just a matter of semantics: these beings, for magicians, are best identified by how they present, how they operate, and what they do (as opposed to the dressing/identification given to them by systems)

To make it even more complicated, these beings work in tandem and in layers with other beings (deities, elemental spirits, etc.). For example, one magical system may see a storm as an elemental consciousness, another may see it as a deity, and yet another may see it as an angelic or demonic force. In truth, a storm often requires all three: the deity is like the internet connection, the angelic or demonic being is like the processor, and the elemental consciousness is the software program. Not all storms carry all three, but some do.

So for this lesson we will look at what we call angels: what they are, how they present, and what they do. Some information we can glean from magical and religious texts; some we have to find from directly interfacing with these beings. The problem with magical and religious texts is that al-

though there is a lot of useful information to be found, there are also dogmatic man-made interfaces (remember the subdivisions? angels suffer them too), theories from writers who have never really connected with these beings, and religious manipulations. However, some of these texts also have deep and abiding mysteries outlined in them if the reader knows how to recognise and decipher them.

Once you have built up a strong working relationship with angel beings, which you will have by the time you get to adept-level training, you will easily spot the hidden texts and wisdoms that relate to them. But before you get to that working relationship, you need to be sure of what it is you are actually trying to build a relationship with. That is what this lesson is about.

The following is what I have discovered, both through training and practical experience, over the decades. It is not foolproof and I do not have all the answers, as these beings are in truth way beyond our feeble understanding, but everything written here is a result of direct contact and experience, not theory. And all of it will be approached from a magical perspective, not a religious or cultural one.

Angels

Angelic beings permeate everything, as they are the ‘pattern’ through which Divine/Universal Power flows in order to manifest in all forms of creation. Angelic beings that are closer to nature/humanity tend to appear in vision in forms that we can relate to (as humans, animals, etc.). The further away they are from the details of manifest nature (animals, people, land, etc.) the weirder they start to look, and the more powerful they become from our perspective.

Besides working as energetic structures for power to flow through, angels are also bridges, guardians, fulcrums, communicators, and deliverers. Some angelic beings have an extremely focussed function that they do not step out of, and often they do not see anything except that which they are tuned to. Some angelic beings, particularly the ones who work more directly with humanity, tend to have a wider range of action, and they are able to work within a vocabulary that humans can understand and relate to. Angels

that work a lot in connection with the human world often ‘dress up’: they present themselves in a form that we recognise and they will be willing to work within that charade. But charade it often is, and such interfacing, if it is too complex or humanised, can limit the human ability to engage fully with, and gain understanding of, the angelic being’s power.

In today’s world of magicians, angels abound with many names, and are woven, by their names, into virtually every aspect of magic. This in turn has led to an obsession with names and images that began with post-exile Judaism. What we see today in the magical practices that involve angels didn’t really come into being (or to be more precise, their man made outer filter) until Christian times, and it is yet another example of humanity’s need to organise and control.

This pattern that developed within Christianity is a hang-over from the Roman Empire, the cultural structure that formed the religion of Christianity. The Romans loved boxing, controlling, subdividing, naming, giving attributes... and then harassing, begging, and pleading with deities/spirits/whatever in order to get what they wanted.

That degeneration is the foundation that Western magic sits upon in its method of action. It is really important to realise that, and not to see those early years as some great point in magical history, as the reality was the reverse: that time was the true dawning of the magical Dark Age.

Within that Dark Age, though, walked many magicians who were ‘switched on’ at a profound level, and they hid their wisdom and knowledge in magical texts in a very clever way. Remember, the key to learning magic is to pay attention. These magicians toiling away through the magical Dark Age understood that, and used it in order to preserve magical knowledge. By the time you get to the 15th century AD in Europe, the Roman inheritance was in full swing. Everything was about boxing/naming etc., and the lure of potentially limitless power, as promised by magic, was a strong pull for anyone who could afford to hire a magician, or buy the rare and precious texts—not unlike today, with its glamorous magical books with their fancy sigils and mysterious names, bound in goatskin and inked with blood (bwahaha.....how cartoon can you get?).

But hidden within some of those old texts were gems that whispered, pointing the way to those who paid attention. The clueless searchers would be transfixed by the glamour of strange names, symbols, and difficult ritu-

als. But those who paid attention could find those whispers, break through the glamour, and connect directly with the beings that operate through magic. And often those whispers truly were whispers... a huge volume may have had only one paragraph that contained all of the magical wisdom that would act as a key to opening up magic for the seeker.

A good example of this is found in the Arbatel of Magic. On the surface, the Arbatel is about connecting to the various levels of consciousness and beings in creation through ritual actions. The magician is told names, numbers, orders, hierarchies, sigils, spells: the recipe is one designed to capture the imagination (and the wish for control) of the magician. Magicians work with the Arbatel for a number of reasons, some to gain contact with angelic beings, planetary powers, their Holy Guardian Angel, and to discover their own unique purpose and fate. The various magical workings are littered with complex and obscure names, rituals and so forth.

Underneath that, is hidden a profound whisper.

*There are other names of the Olympick spirits delivered by others; but they onely are effectual, which are delivered to any one, by the Spirit the revealer, visible or invisible: and they are delivered to every one as they are predestinated: therefore they are called Constellations; and they seldome have any efficacie above 40 yeers. **Therefore it is most safe for the young practisers of Art, that they work by the offices of the Spirits alone, without their names; and if they are pre-ordained to attain the Art of Magick, the other parts of the Art will offer themselves unto them of their own accord.** Pray therefore for a constant faith, and God will bring to pass all things in due season.*

—Arbatel of Magic: Septena Tertia—18

Read that clip a few times and think about it in relation to what you have already learned, and the way you are learning to work with various beings. The Olympic spirits are angelic beings: keep that in mind as you ponder. And also keep in mind that the closed door in magic is kept closed by the ego of the magician.

In this course, you will learn to work with ‘undressed’ angels before you move on to work with known ones. This way, just as you did with deities, you will learn the signature feel of an angelic being. As you gain more experience, this will allow you to differentiate between an angelic being and something that is not, but that is trying to get you to believe that it is—usually a parasite.

Before we move on, let’s just take a little closer look at some different types of angelic functions from a perspective of practical examples, so that you gain a bit more of an understanding before we dig deeper. We will start with the angels that interface more often with humans, and work out from there.

Angels close to humans

The angels closest to humans, and which operate around humans, tend to have these functions: they tell you things, show you things, ‘open doors’ or ‘close doors’ in your fate path, and facilitate the exteriorisation of power for your birth, death, judgement, health, or sickness: these are angelic beings that act as triggers for key aspects of your life.

As I am sure you are now beginning to understand, everything in the universe works as a series of octaves. Just as an angelic being acts as the filter of the threshold of the manifest world to bring the whole world in to being (in an act of constant creation/destruction), so also an angelic being acts upon a threshold that enables *your* creation (your birth) and also your creative output.

From the smallest creation of a plant, an idea, or a fate path, to the creation of the universe itself, an angelic form is present and operating as a filter/bridge/enabler. Before as a magician you dip your toe into the mechanics of the universe, it is wise to understand what is right in front of you.

These angels around humanity are ever-present, and usually there is no need for communication: they do their job, you do yours, and everyone is happy. But once a magician steps into magic and opens a conscious dialogue with everything around them, the relationship shifts: the magician slowly learns to work alongside, with, and around these angelic beings.

This level of angelic being can present in a variety of ways. How they present to you depends very much on your own understanding and your *ability* to understand, and also on the function of the angel in question, what job they are trying to achieve. Identifying the angel by function is very important indeed, as it sidesteps a lot of thorny issues for magicians.

A human-created name/image/function is an *interface that the human projects* in order to connect with an angelic being. But if it is overstructured, such a projection not only limits the interfacing with the human, and becomes a major stumbling-block in the communication, but it can also sometimes create an *empty vessel*, a fake identity that a parasite can step into and operate. This happens a lot in magic, more than people realise.

In earlier cultures (pre-exile Judaism, Ancient Egypt, etc.) the angelic beings were classed simply as angels/spirits who had a particular Divine function, and who worked as part of creation: they were known simply by their actions.

They can appear to us in human or semihuman form, often with wings (showing their ability to flow from one world to another), sometimes with many eyes (sees everything), and with tools (e.g. swords) or elements (e.g. flames). This is them projecting images from a vocabulary that they know has relevance to us and that we understand. Sometimes they will show us things from our own minds in order to convey what they do (e.g. a door, a car, a horse, a cup). What they will not do is give you names, or align themselves to planets, substances, times, dates, etc.: those are all man made constructs.

Behind that angelic vocabulary there is a being of elements, vibrations, sound and patterns. People who have taken hallucinogenic drugs have often been thrust before a strange-looking being of colour, sound, patterns, eyes, etc.: the drug has stripped away the human mind and exposed the person to the angelic being in its truer form. Is taking such drugs a good idea? No, not really. Why? Because the mutual simple vocabulary (as opposed to the over-complicated named one) not only provides a common ground for constructive communication, but also a filter that protects the human from the impact of the angelic being.

These beings carry immense amounts of power within them. Trying to communicate with them without any form of filter can seriously damage a human: think nuclear power. The vocabulary they use in their presentation

to us (rather than the human-constructed vocabulary) downs the power and filters it into structures of communication and avenues of power that we can cope with. Even so, a powerful angelic being can still impact a human, and this is recounted in magical and religious texts over and over again. Here is a good example that most of you should already know about: An excerpt from Genesis 32—Jacob encounters an angel.

*That same night he arose, and taking his two wives, his two maidservants, and his eleven children, he crossed the ford of the Jabbok. After taking them across the stream, he sent across all his possessions. Jacob was left alone. And a man wrestled with him until the break of dawn. When he saw that he had not prevailed against him, he wrenched Jacob's hip at its socket, so that the socket of his hip was strained as he wrestled with him. Then he said, "Let me go, for dawn is breaking." But he answered, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me." Said the other, "What is your name?" He replied, "Jacob." Said he, "Your name shall no longer be Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with beings divine and human, and have prevailed." Jacob asked, "Pray tell me your name." But he said, "You must not ask my name!" And he took leave of him there. So Jacob named the place Peniel, meaning, **"I have seen a divine being face to face, yet my life has been preserved."** The sun rose upon him as he passed Penuel, limping on his hip.*

— Genesis 32:4 - 36:43 (This translation was taken from the JPS Tanakh)

Notice in the text how the angel appears to him as a human male, and yet acts as the threshold between Divinity and Jacob. As any magician experienced in working in vision with angelic beings will tell you, communing in depth with an angel feels like you have spent the night wrestling: the physical impact can be quite considerable.

In the Genesis chapter, Jacob spends the whole night in some form of communion with an angelic being, and survives to tell the tale. This changes him forever, which is shown by his change of name.

You can view an English/Hebrew version of this chapter here

<http://www.mechon-mamre.org/p/pt/pt0132.htm>

Not all angels have such an impact upon the human body, but many do, particularly those who are heralds and bridges. A magician spends a lot of time training slowly, building strength, inner vision, roots, developing filters and tools, so that as they advance, they can work and commune with angelic beings safely and without too much impact (unless they overstep the mark).

The modern idea of New Age angels... you know, the pink-and-white-feathered, glow-in-the-dark crystal angel of Venus that appears to the 'angel channeller' who is usually called something like Sharon Metatron Whitefeather... is actually a big juicy parasite. The same goes for opposite extreme, found in the seedier side of magic: the dark gothic, heavy metal sex-angel from hell with big teeth and loads of tits (awesome!!)... also a parasite.

To sidestep this all-too-common problem with cross-dressing parasites, work with angelic beings by using their *function* as an identity, and allow them to present themselves to you as they wish, not how you think they should look. Again, as you will have realised by now, it is important for the magician to be able to get out of the way and allow beings to present in their own chosen vocabulary, not one that the magician has plucked from a grimoire.

As you progress through the course, the angels that are close to humanity will be beings that you will work with quite a bit; hence it is important at the early stages to be able to get out of the way of your own mind and allow clear communication.

Threshold angels

Threshold angels are another type of angelic being that you will work with quite a lot in the latter stages of the Initiate and Adept training. Although you will not work with them as an apprentice, it is very useful for

your foundational knowledge to know what they are and what they do, just in case one does turn up in your work, which can happen at any stage in a magician's training. Knowledge of them will also help you to understand various ancient texts and spot them in action in those texts—regardless of how they are labelled.

For example, in Egyptian texts all beings are labelled as deities or spirits. This is not a problem, so long as you understand what it is they do, and what their limitations are. The Egyptians made no distinction between different types of beings, but they did approach the different types of 'deities' in different ways. To us as modern magicians, labelling different beings with different functions as deities, angels, demons, etc. just makes it easier for us to understand how to approach them and work with them... *so long as you do not overcomplicate it in your own mind.*

Threshold angels tend not to turn up in the manifest world, but they can turn up quite a lot in magical vision work, depending on what you are doing. They work on 'the other side of the fence,' so to speak, and are a layer removed from the angelic beings that work out in the world with humanity (and other creatures). So for example, where you find an angel who works with the dying, there is also a deeper angelic being in the inner worlds that works with human once they have died. That is a threshold angel. Beyond that threshold angel, there is another deeper layer again, with an angel that works with the soul at a more profound level.

These threshold beings work in the inner desert, which is essentially the cooking-pot of creation: they combine their patterns to create energetic structures through which power flows from Divinity, forming it in preparation for physical manifestation. These structural angelic beings were also used in the past by priest-magicians for the inner construction of temples and sacred buildings. (Reading up on the construction of Solomon's temple in the Bible will provide you with a good hidden example).

Remnants of that knowledge survived in aspects of the construction of early Norman cathedrals, but only remnants. If you go to some ancient temples (Karnak is a really good example), and you sit and go in vision to the inner substance of the temple, you will see the angelic structures embedded within the building. These beings are involved in far too many aspects of creation to give you a wide overview in one lesson, but from these key details, as you progress, you will be able to spot them.

Another function of the threshold angels is to carry the consciousness of humans to the threshold of Divinity. One aspect of this function has become very popular in magic and New Age circles, and that is the aspect known as the Merkaba. There is so much bullshit around the Merkaba that is it almost comical: everything from UFOs to light vehicles, to complex rituals and actions undertaken to step into some sort of light car and go speeding off to God (good luck with that one).

The reality of the Merkaba is not so flashy, but is far more profound: it consists of threshold angelic beings that provide an access route from the manifest realm to the Divine realm. You cannot ritually induce it: there is nothing a human can do to force that contact and action. However, it is a natural stage that an adept comes to when they have been working in depth with angelic beings in vision for some time. The angelic beings uphold the human and bridge them across the threshold of the worlds when the time is right for that individual. This is something you will come to learn about in the adept section of the work.

The key to recognising threshold angels is in their presentation and action. They do not appear in the manifest world; they appear only in the inner worlds or at threshold events that involve groups, tribes, or nations: birth, death, destruction, creation, judgement. At these threshold events, a different octave of angelic being will present to the human, but these deeper threshold beings will be working away, literally on the threshold between the worlds.

Visionaries spot them, as do magicians. They appear with many eyes, wings, flames, wind, light, dark, animal heads, etc., and very rarely in any humanoid form that we would recognise. These are not beings to work with in learning (as you would get fried), but simply to be aware of, so that you can spot them in texts, which in turn will help you to understand the hidden meanings in those texts.

Angels and the inner desert

These angelic beings only work deep in the inner worlds, and do not work at all in the manifest world. Their patterns form power that is then

passed on to the threshold angels, who in turn pass it on to the angels who work out in the manifest world. These are the weirdest-looking of all the angels, and tend to appear as complex patterns and platonic solids (they are the building blocks or ‘code’ of creation and destruction).

A good and well-known example of these beings that is passed down through magical texts is the *Metatron Cube*. Many modern magicians think that the Cube is some sort of code to be broken, or a pattern that they can manipulate: that is a trap. This pattern is a representation of the angelic structures found at the edge of the Abyss: the first filter that the consciousness and impulse of Divinity passes through as it begins its journey into manifest creation.

This is a level of angelic contact that the magician simply observes, and through observation the magician gains insight. If the magician tries to decode this pattern, they get trapped in a loop of ‘code-breaking’ which shuts them down.

This is the level of contact where the job of the adept is simply to observe, and through that observation, enact their service as ‘witnesses.’ It is not something for an apprentice to be involved in. Not only would it be fruitless at this stage, but it can also have a massive physical impact, as your body is not yet fully tuned to deal with that level of power. But over time, it is something that you will potentially step into.

Bound angels

Some angels that have singular, very powerful actions are often found bound up in a form of sleep until it is their time to release and do their job. These angels only become active at times of major change in the manifest world. As an adept, as you work deeply in the inner worlds, you will potentially come across these bound angels. They are not beings that you would work with magically, but observing and recognising them allows you to spot when one of these powerful beings has been released out into the manifest world.

Usually, their job is destruction. We in the West would often consider their actions to be ‘demonic,’ when in fact they are bringing destruction in order to create balance. Here is a good Biblical example:

And the sixth angel sounded, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God, Saying to the sixth angel which had the trumpet, Loose the four angels which are bound in the great river Euphrates.

And the four angels were loosed, which were prepared for an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year, for to slay the third part of men.

—Revelations 9:13

As magicians, we have no business with these beings. Our job is simply to observe and be ‘witnesses’ to these angelic expressions without any personal judgement and without interfering in their processes. But recognising them and spotting them in action brings us a much better, longer-term understanding of what is happening in the manifest world. If there is massive disaster/war/destruction, and we have previously seen one of these bound angels being released, we know that the destruction, however awful it may be, is a necessary function.

That in turn tells us not to interfere or get involved unless fate pulls us directly into the firing line. That can sometimes happen, and has happened to me in the past: you observe the releasing of a powerful angelic being from its bindings, and shortly after, chaos spills out into the world in some form. You are then suddenly transported right into the midst of the chaos to do a specific task, and then immediately taken back out of the situation.

That usually happens where there is a simple job that a human must do in order to assist with the process. Most of the time this is not a magical job, and sometimes it is simply a matter of being there briefly, as a magically switched-on human.

At this level of your training, just be aware of these beings and learn to recognise bound angels in magical and religious texts, as this will tell you a great deal about what was happening and why. This in turn will expand your magical understanding and education, without plunging you into a dangerous area of magic.

I have also come across bound angels that were bound in their actions by human magic. This magic was very old, complex, powerful... and pretty nasty. I do not fully understand the mechanisms by which these beings were bound using magic, but I certainly learned how to take that binding off.

There is a lot of nonsense in modern magical texts about binding angelic beings to ‘do your will.’ The vast majority of that writing is total bullshit. Binding an angelic being is not impossible, as many would think, but it is a lot harder than most magicians understand it to be. If I had a dollar for every hapless wannabe magician who told me that they had bound the archangel Michael to their arm (with a flashy tattoo) to do their will, I would be a rich woman. Not only is this bullshit, it is *infantile* bullshit, which makes it all the more depressing.

Sometimes, an overdeveloped human interface for an angel will appear as a magical binding when in fact it isn't: the human structure (name, image, etc.) simply limits the conversation between angel and human so much that it may as well be bound, as it cannot work through such a restricted filter.

The issues of bound angels and magicians will be more deeply explored in the adept stage of training. At the moment, the theory and practice of working with such phenomena would not only be frustrating and confusing, but it could also get pretty unhealthy for all concerned.

Developing a working method

By now you will have noticed that the magician does not ‘call’ angels to himself or herself; rather the magician goes to a threshold level of being where the human and angel can interact in a mutually accessible space. At the apprentice level, such a space is the threshold of the directions. Later you will learn to expand that work to deeper visionary work, inner temples, and also out in nature.

This is for a number of reasons, and although the adept will at times call/ask an angel into the manifest working space, most of the time all interactions are in vision. This enables the magician to sidestep all of the false

dressings and allow full and proper interaction with the angelic being, as opposed to random snatches of contact.

This method takes longer in terms of learning and technique development, but it works along more natural paths (vision, dreams, inner senses) which in turn allow for greater and safer communion. By the time you are an adept, you will work in both methods.

Practical work

VISION WORK

For this exercise, you are going to connect with an angelic being that works through the dynamic known as the Grindstone. You have worked with this influence through your ritual work and through your work with the sword (it is one of the angelic beings that flows with the magic of the sword). This will make it easier for you to make a visionary contact with this angelic being: you sort of already know each other.

Once you have met this being, you will slowly start to understand the planetary influence that is connected with/in orbit with this angel. You will also slowly begin to recognise its influence in your life via tarot readings and ritual work.

It is a being that works ceaselessly in the manifest world, and is a major component of your magical path. You do not ask/tell/demand this being to do things for you; rather you learn simply to commune and recognise when it has been triggered in your life. By doing this, the power of the being becomes something that can help you not only to understand a situation, but also teach you how as a magician to engage fully with its influence in order to achieve your greatest potential: once you know why something difficult is happening, it makes it easier to plough your way through that difficulty, knowing that there is a positive reason for such influence.

Once you have gotten to a stage in your magical training where you are fully capable of taking magical responsibility for yourself, you will then find

that this angelic being, along with others, will be more forthcoming in communication with you, and will work more actively with you.

PREPARATION AND WORK

To prepare for the vision, set up the ritual space with the tools in each direction (prop the sword, point down, against the north side of the east altar) and spread the cloth shield on the floor. Light the lights, open the gates, and do the Anchor ritual. Then go sit down in front of the east altar; spend a short time in stillness meditation.

Once you are still, using your inner vision, see the east gate and the contacts on the thresholds. Ask the contact if you can observe, through the open gate, the power/angelic being of the Grindstone power. Sit quietly and observe in vision. This being can present in a number of ways, so do not try to pre-empt it in your mind.

When you get a sense of the being, ask if it would be willing to make itself known to you through your dreams, though augury in the outside world, and through any other signs that you could learn to spot. Do not try to limit how this being makes itself known to you, and do not demand anything. The contact is likely to be fleeting and difficult to understand in vision (though not for everybody), so don't expect Ezekiel-like visions; just let it be what it will be.

Your body needs to get used to these deeper powers, so don't push it. Do this vision connection only once, which will trigger further connection out in the manifest world—the safest form of connection at this stage. Working this way, one step at a time, can be frustrating, but it slowly adjusts you so that eventually, as an adept, you will be able to work freely and deeply with these beings.

When you have finished the vision, close down the directions in your usual way, and put everything away.

OBSERVATION

Immediately write down your interaction, observations, insights, and descriptions in your journal. Later, type them up in your computer log.

TAROT

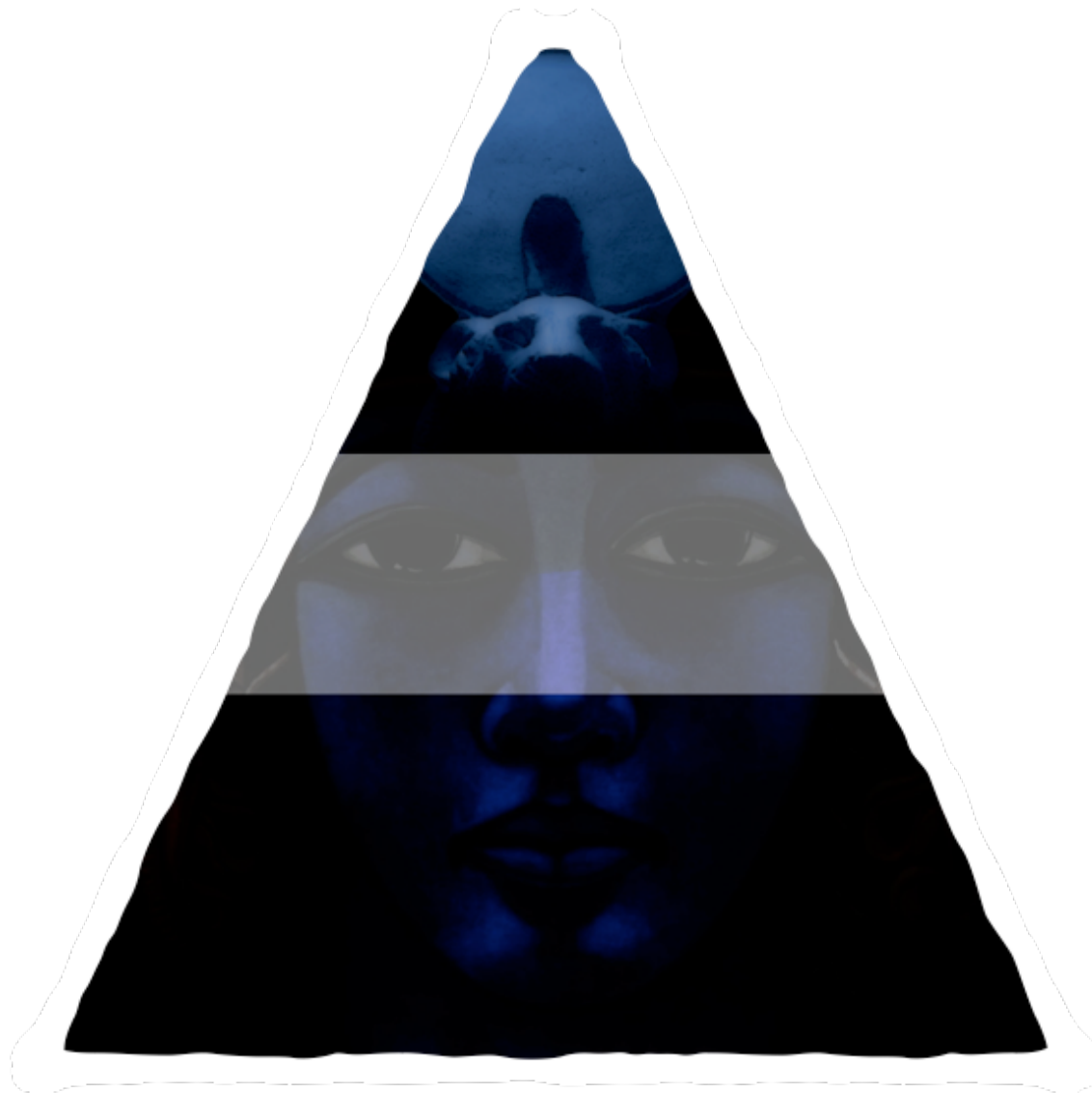
Using the landscape/desert layout, look to see if this being is having a direct influence in your life at present, and if so, what part of your life and how. Use other layouts if you need to, in order to get the information you need. Do not peer too deeply, and do not obsess over it. Simply look, acknowledge, and then think about how you may need to ‘step up’ and fully engage with the situation this being is flowing through in your life.

Tasks

1. Think back to what you learned about the magical sword and how it works out in the world, and also in your own life and magical work. Meditate upon the relationship between the sword and the Grindstone. Write down your observations and conclusions in your computer log.
2. Look back to the images from the Pyramid Texts, and see if you can spot where beings are operating that are in fact what we call angelic beings.
3. Read The Book of Revelation in the New Testament. Think about the angelic influences that are depicted in the texts, and take notes (computer) as to what you think the underlying work/purpose of these angelic beings are, and how you would describe them by function.
4. Read the Book of Jubilees chapter two, verses one to three. This tells you about the different angels involved in nature and creation. Spend some time rereading those short verses and thinking about them in light of what you know.

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