

“I longed for a more intuitive life”

Neel van Lierop created inspiration cards to help find one's inner compass because they were exactly what she needed at that time. They marked the transition to her new life.

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The doors of her Amsterdam apartment are wide open, even though only a tentative spring sun is shining. Neel van Lierop lives on the third story of a restored warehouse. With a smile on her face and a twinkle in her brown eyes, she looks out over the canal. Her house is bright and spacious, in shades of white and gray, and her sturdy, dark wood furniture has nicks and scratches that show how much it's been through. It makes an apt symbol of Neel herself, a cheerful woman with some turbulent years behind her.

Trust

The purity of her decor matches the style of the Inner Compass Cards that she invented. The backs are decorated in a lively pattern of white, black, and gray, and the designs on the other side are beautiful, stylized images in natural tones, full of symbolism. They bear words like “Flow,” “Compassion,” “Deep Down,” “The Magnet,” and “Monkey.” Neel explains, “I used to have what’s known as the Angel cards, but I could never bring myself to have it out in a visible spot in the room. I studied styling, and the design was just too ugly.” The attractive look of Neel’s cards is only one of the things that make them unique. The content

came first. “Come on, let’s pick a card,” she says before the interview begins. The cards will tell us something about the conversation ahead. She shuffles and we choose a card. It says “Trust.” “Perfect,” Neel says, because she hasn’t prepared for the interview, preferring to be intuitive. She reads her comments on the card from the accompanying booklet: The universe knows what it’s doing, and there’s no point in trying to control, manipulate, or manage it. “Intuitive messages are guiding you and helping you along your path... Trust in your own omnipresent inner strength. Even if you might forget that sometimes.”

Intuition

For a long time, Neel wasn’t able to trust her own inner strength. She describes a transformation that took ten years, referring to her “old life” before and her “new life” now. After dropping out of a European studies program at university, she enrolled to become a stylist. After four years in fashion, she became a headhunter for the design industry. She was a party girl in those days, but it was just a form of escapism, she says. “I was trying to escape the fear of freedom, of really coming home. I used alcohol, drugs, and other people to lose myself. I was in search of a more intuitive life: I took mindfulness classes, read books by Eckhart Tolle, learned all about the Mayas, but stayed very much in my head.

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NEEL VAN LIEROP (b.1981)

- is an entrepreneur
- can concentrate better when she drinks Japanese matcha tea
- designed a deck of cards that is taking America by storm



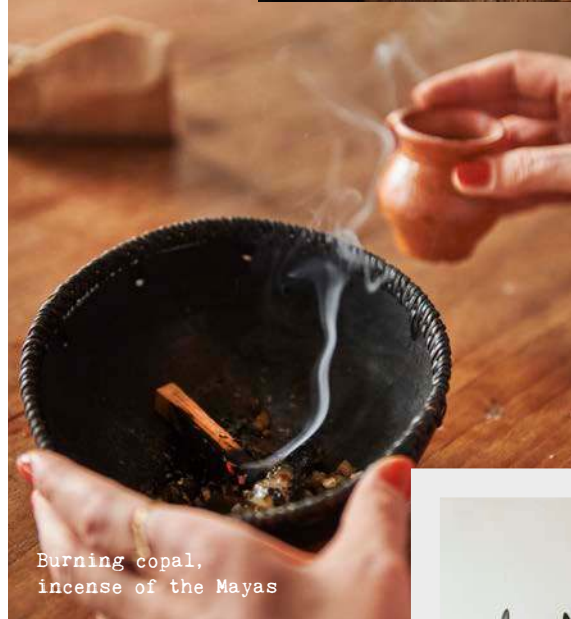
What does your intuition say?



Neel's daily ritual



Making matcha tea



Burning copal, incense of the Mayas



Neel feels connected to Indian culture



Life as a digital nomad



I wanted to understand everything, even things like sleeping, dancing, and love, which of course is impossible. Besides, it's more exciting to live intuitively. You part ways with a lot of things and people. But then I started a relationship with a man who wanted to party, and I went along with it again. The tough thing about transformation is that the old stuff is still there, including your old job and friends, and the new hasn't really arrived yet. That makes it tempting to fall back into old patterns."

New depths

She first had the idea for the cards during an ayahuasca session, in which plant extracts are used to induce hallucinations. "I was voyaging through my unconscious and my higher self spoke to me clearly: 'Help me to spread universal wisdom.' It felt like I was downloading one profound truth after another. Later, back at home, I thought, 'Oh, right, no way I'm writing a book. It's too much work, and it won't sell, because nobody knows who I am.' Plus I was scared to death of public speaking. So I asked the universe to give me some way of working with those profound truths aside from a book or a public appearance. I wrote my request in a notebook and let it go. Three months later - two years ago now - I was struggling with serious health problems, including insomnia and panic attacks. Around that time, I read that Oprah and Obama don't start their days reactively, by opening apps and emails, but proactively, by focusing on themselves. I started to do that with the angel cards, which are based on questions that you ask yourself. It made a tremendous difference. I could tell that the cards were changing my life. For the first time, after ten years of trying to transform myself, I could finally integrate my intuition. That led to my eureka moment: I knew I was going to make my own insight cards. The design and language had to be fresh and uncover new depths of meaning. That's when I started to mull it over. A year and a half later, the first edition came out."

Subconsciousness

While brainstorming and writing, Neel took inspiration from age-old methods of gaining insight of the self: Tarot cards, oracle stones, and a variety of books. "What fascinates me most is the subconscious mind. Most people don't realize that that's where decisions are made. My cards open a window to the subconscious. The blind draw method prevents your mind from getting involved. Your intuitive powers take over, and as you read the accompanying comments, your brain starts to connect them to pieces of your life. And that leads to a shift. The funny thing is, I wrote the book myself, and all of my comments are based on life lessons I myself have learned, but to my own surprise, I still find myself using the cards daily. I find something new in them each time. For example, I'm crazy about the card called 'The Compass,' which is at the heart of the whole deck. The description of this card in the manual includes sentences



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like, 'Are you able to let go of the expectations and needs of those around you? And remember: your gut feeling is your inner compass.' That helps me to stay in touch with my intentions, for instance, in the discussions with investors I'm having now." "The 'Deep Down' card says that intuition is always present, even when it's obscured by noise. The cards help you to distinguish your own inner compass from the voice of society, your parents, or your friends. The problem I have, and that we all have, is that the noise distracts us. Life is more fun when you eliminate that and stay in closer touch with yourself, closer to your potential, your strength."

Neel has made it her mission to help others with this process. >



It's going well so far; the deck is a huge international success. "It's as if I've discovered the love of my life. I'm on a high, loving frequency now, and I feel like I'm high on life all the time, like I'm flying, free and weightless. Meanwhile, the practical side keeps my feet on the ground, because I'm still personally responsible for customer service, sales, PR, Instagram, and negotiations with parties like foreign publishers. The cards and everything they've set in motion have made me so strongly rooted in my own strength that I know I won't fall back into my old life of partying, in which I was totally disconnected from myself."

Thinking bigger

Equipped with a stack of cards, she traveled to Los Angeles, San Francisco, and New York, because eighty percent of her customers live there, probably thanks to her Instagram posts. The cards sold like hotcakes, so she had a new shipment delivered to her and she stayed in the USA for about six months. "I had all kinds of amazing experiences there. I found myself in a Native American ceremony, I got lost in a village where a store agreed to add my cards to its assortment, and Hollywood's biggest yoga studio wanted to sell them. America taught me to think bigger. My new goal is an interview with Oprah. And as I said, I'm talking to an American publisher. On the one hand, it's too bad I'll have to give up so much control. On the other hand, that'll give me a lot of freedom, so that less energy is drained away and I can remain more in touch with myself in the future."

Sacred tradition

Neel worked on the deck for 260 days, exactly one cycle in the Maya calendar. Not until afterwards did she realize that she had started on the first day of a new Maya cycle and finished on the last day. She spent another 260 days working on the illustrations and design with illustrator Anneliek Holland. Many of the profound truths in the manual come from the Mayas. So Neel was nervous when she presented the cards to her Maya teacher in Guatemala. "The way I saw it, I had fooled around with their sacred tradition by incorporating their wisdom into my cards. But he was very enthusiastic and thought it was right on point. It was also exciting to see that he and other Mayas drew the cards with a Maya background; more confirmation that the cards are right. I've had a few hard years in the past, when I was trying so hard to understand life that it almost made me unhappy. I was searching high and low for answers. It became a real drag on my friends. Now I know that this is what I was searching for: the development of the cards. I also think that's the reason I haven't been involved with anyone for the past few years, so that I could focus exclusively on this. I'm grateful I had that freedom." 🌿



"What fascinates me most is the subconscious mind - that's where you make decisions."



PLEASE TAKE A CARD...

This issue includes seven cards from Neel van Lierop's deck of 49 Inner Compass Cards.

On the pages that follow, you'll find the accompanying commentary.

The cards are also for sale in our online shop: happinez.nl/shop

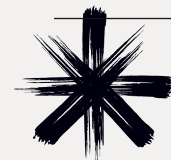
Inner Compass Cards

A brief guide to the seven cards in this issue



Trust

Everything that is happening now, is part of your process. It has to happen. By rising and falling, you keep growing and reaching new heights. Through awareness, you will be able to recognize your life's lessons. This way, they will no longer be unexpected events, but steps in your inner process to become more complete. Relax knowing that everything is heading in the right direction. It is pointless to forcefully want to control, manipulate or steer things. Your intuition is a friend that you can trust blindly. Trust is the keyword: trust in the process and trust in your own omnipresent inner strength.



The Healer

You are currently going through a process of deep healing. At your own pace, open yourself to change. This might feel awkward or painful at first. Eventually it will bring you closer to yourself. Shed everything that distracts you from your true nature. It is time to let go and say goodbye to people and situations that no longer serve you, so that space becomes available for things that are better suited for the new you. When you know that pain is part of the healing process, it will be easier to release yourself from the chains of victimhood. Before long, you will feel liberated and back on track. Accept the healing and say yes to transformation. You are capable of so much more than you might think!



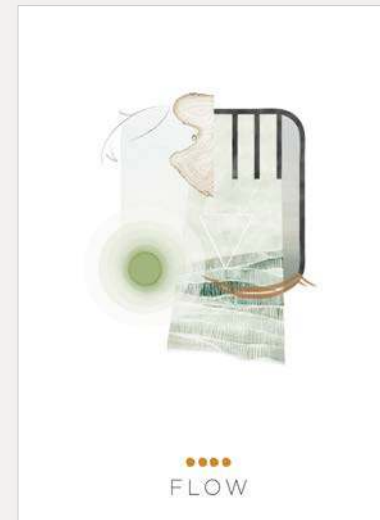
Harvest

The time to harvest has come! You have planted your seeds and now the time has come to pick the fruit. This card points to a period of plenty and joy. Harvest is a time to step back from your hard work and enjoy your own creation. No matter how great or poor your crop is, you can be thankful for it. Is your harvest plentiful? Be grateful for how true you are to yourself. Is it poor? Be grateful for the mirror, it gives you a chance to redirect your path. For abundance and inexhaustible yield in your life, follow feelings of joy. Be grateful and trusting, the horn of plenty will come your way.



Flow

The most natural way of living is by flowing along. From that state of non-resistance, everything can happen smoothly and effortlessly. From the ego, there is often a strong desire to reach or to force something. This blocks the natural flow and reality. Life is all about surrendering to the waves of existence. Can you simply be with that what is, and go with the flow? This card invites you to look at the situation from your heart. If you have the courage to let go of control, life can unfold itself naturally and you will receive what you need. Leave your false sense of control. Instead, surrender yourself to the flow of life!



Just be

If you let go of control, life organizes itself better than you could ever imagine! When you surrender, you create space and flexibility. It is perfectly fine for things to go differently than expected. You have the capacity to adjust yourself to everything that comes your way. All is welcome in an open space. You can make mistakes without feeling shame or remorse. If you learn from your mistakes, how bad can they really be? Just stay present, with an open and flexible attitude. An open space, with no expectations or judgements, is also a wonderful thing for relationships. You do not need to give advice, belittle a problem or force your opinion. You can be there for someone by simply listening. In presence, intuitively, you feel what both you and the other need.



Deep down

Deep down inside, you always know exactly what you need. Often, however, the connection is not clear enough to make good use of it. It is the messy mind that creates too much noise. A calm mind, on the other hand, strengthens the access and repairs the connection you have with your intuitive body. Look at it like troubled water in a glass, which only becomes clear again when stillness allows the mud to sink. This card invites you to become still, to make contact with your inner voice. Only you know what is right for you.



Back to nature

Shamans believe that there is only one disease, for which there is only one medicine. The disease is that you have become disconnected from yourself: from your body, your heart, your feeling and life's bigger picture. The medicine consists of repairing that connection. With that purpose in mind, this card shows up to point you in the direction of nature. In nature, everything grows effortlessly and perfectly. It does not curse the rain or compares itself to its neighbor, nor is it afraid to die. It simply is. Guess what? You are part of this. You are nature! Take your place! Step out of your head, back to nature. Let it be your medicine.

