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Introspection

PRESENT CHALLENGE

Appreciating that Nature is teaching you to value life as a spiritual process.

You have drawn this card because you have entered a period of rapid internal spiritual change. These changes may be manifesting in your life as an insatiable desire to read and learn from books, a longing to travel, or perhaps a desire to move or vacation in places offering a very different landscape.

Your shifting internal landscape may also be recognizable through sudden mood shifts or the abrupt emergence of ideas, compulsions, feelings, or desires that are entirely new to you. Energy is on the move in your being, and Nature is the catalyst to help you learn. This card comes to tell you that Nature has an important gift for you that will encourage your spiritual awakening.

ANGELIC MESSAGE

Introspection

The Planet Earth is specifically a reality of choice. Each day, each moment, you are presented with choices. The planet is primarily water, and water is symbolic of transforming the spirit, searching for God within. Your body is also largely water, and so without



any effort on your part, your life is destined for spiritual awakening because all your choices lead inevitably toward the spiritual realm.

Humanity's process of spiritual awakening is coming to a head as Nature seeks to touch those compassionate humans who understand their relationship to all living things. Humanity needs to regulate its activities and, in so doing, to be able to re-establish meaningful and lasting relationships with the natural orders of life. You are part of this process, being further awakened yourself and also seeking to awaken others to function in desirable stewardship roles.

You are aware that you have choices in your life even if you are unaware of the spiritual basis of these choices. When you look deeply into any aspect of Nature—any animal, plant, or tree, for instance—you may wonder what choices these living things have. Nature's choices involve either growing toward or away from close ties with humankind. But these choices may take many years to manifest. Human choices, by contrast, can change the planet in a matter of moments or a few years. Nature has little control in the short term over the choices that humanity makes even when these choices portend disaster. Nature is vulnerable to external predators—namely, humanity. Humanity is vulnerable to internal predators: its own fear and lack of spiritual presence.

We, your angelic teachers, are suggesting that you and all of humanity are vulnerable to both positive and negative change. When you recognize feelings of love for Nature waking up inside you, you have heard Nature's urgent pleas to help create a mutually supportive, lasting physical and spiritual environment. You are being asked to accept Nature's gift of a shared future, and you are being urged to awaken to the needs of the life around you.

SPIRITUAL OPPORTUNITY

The guidance coming to you through this flower image is to open to the full presence and power of your life and to accept your role as a steward of the Earth. You are being encouraged to unfold into the full and glorious nature of your life as this flower is doing symbolically. You are being urged to listen to

your heart and to observe life around you in order to sense the true significance of the choices being asked of you.

Nature is seeking to teach you primarily to be observant of the subtle as well as the obvious. As the ant, caterpillar, butterfly, or field mouse must continually sense and observe its environment for predators, you also are required to continually observe your internal environment for predators. Your predators are a lack of attention to the quality of your life, a lack of love in making choices that affect Nature's well-being, a preoccupation with your own needs regardless of the cost to other living things, and/or a lack of compassion and respect for all life. You are being urged to truly observe your own inner nature as part of the larger natural world you are being called upon to protect.

APPLICATION

Train yourself to look closely at life, absorbing both the positive and the negative, the life-enhancing and the life-diminishing. Choose a plant or an animal and watch it for fifteen minutes. If you are observing a plant, become that plant in your imagination. Imagine you have petals, buds, and roots. Close your eyes and feel your roots reaching out into the soil and your leaves opening to the fresh air and sunshine. Imagine you have bloomed and that now your life force is being withdrawn back into your essence. Notice the changes you feel through this introspective process.

If you choose to watch an animal, try to imagine what it would feel like to be that animal. Try holding your attention in the same way as the animal does. Relish the food you eat. Try walking with stealth and caution. Wait, watch, and listen with all your senses focused on a subtle movement. As you open your imagination to these other life forms, you become more observant of the subtle shifts in your own life.