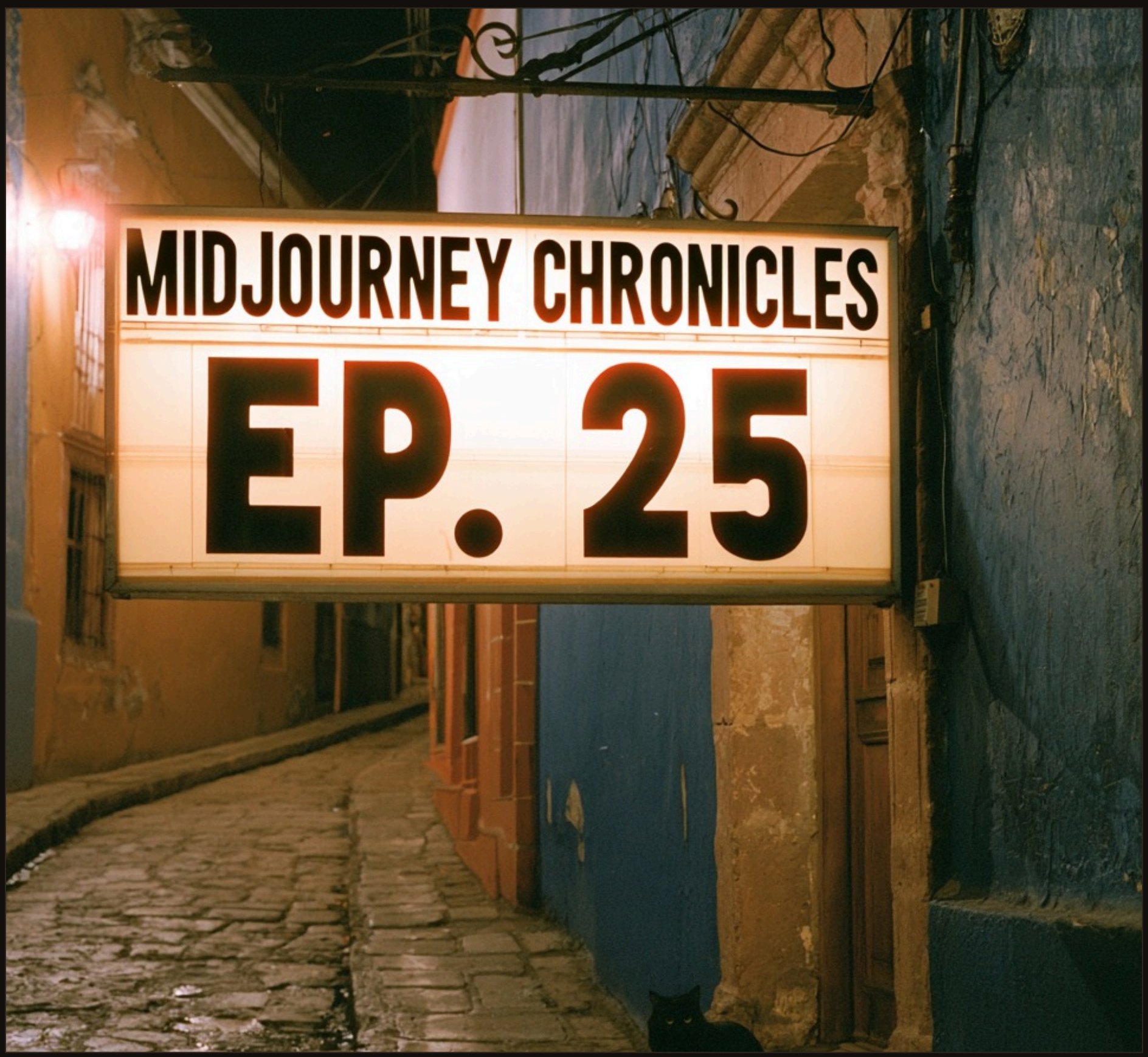
# FIVE QUESTIONS, SEVEN WORLDS

*What are your answers?*



THE LESSON · NO SREF

No style code today. Every image comes from answering the same **five questions**, from Juan Carlos Beltrán's book *Midjourney as a Creative Tool*. Answer them differently each time and every image is a different world.

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 · FOCUS | Who or what is the subject? |
| 2 · GESTURE | What is it doing? One action. |
| 3 · TEMPERATURE | What light and mood? Time of day, weather, feeling. |
| 4 · GEOGRAPHY | Where exactly? A real place. |
| 5 · FILM | What camera, lens or film stock? |

STARTER PROMPT

```
[FOCUS] [GESTURE] in [GEOGRAPHY], [TEMPERATURE: light + weather], [WHERE THE CAMERA STANDS], [3 COLOURS], [FILM] --ar 4:5 --style raw --s 100 --v 8.2 --no 3d render, CGI, plastic
```

WHAT WE LEARNED

- Same tail plus same settings makes images look alike (07 and 08). Vary all five answers.
- "Framed through a dark doorway" and "wide establishing shot" move the camera. "Standing in the doorway" puts a person there.
- MJ doesn't know every landmark. If it misses, describe the shapes.
- A black-and-white film (Tri-X) turns the whole image B&W, even with colours in the prompt.

IMAGE 01




# 01

## COVER: THE ALLEY LIGHTBOX

*Lightboxes close to the camera keep spelling cleanly.*

PROMPT

```
a narrow cobblestone alley in an old colonial town in Mexico at night, a large wide lightbox sign hanging from an iron bracket close to the camera, huge bold lettering filling the whole sign reading "MIDJOURNEY CHRONICLES" on the top line and "EP. 25" large below it, black letters on a glowing cream lightbox, the whole sign fully visible in the frame, ochre and indigo walls, a black cat sitting on a doorstep below, quiet and warm, ochre, indigo, wet stone, CineStill 800T --ar 4:5 --style raw --s 100 --v 8.2 --no credits, small print, fine print, billing block, watermark, signature, logo, repeated text, duplicate letters, cropped sign, 3d render, CGI
```

IMAGE 02



# 02

## TAXCO AT DAWN

| | |
|---|---|
| FOCUS | the Beetle taxi |
| GESTURE | climbing the alley |
| TEMPERATURE | misty dawn, sleepy |
| GEOGRAPHY | Taxco, Mexico |
| FILM | Kodak Portra 400 |

*The filled-in example: every answer is visible in the frame.*

PROMPT

```
an old white Volkswagen Beetle taxi climbing a steep cobblestone alley in Taxco, whitewashed colonial houses with red tile roofs and wrought iron balconies, the pink stone church towers rising behind, misty dawn, standing at the bottom of the alley looking up, quiet and sleepy, white, terracotta, wet stone, Kodak Portra 400 --ar 4:5 --style raw --s 100 --v 8.2 --no 3d render, CGI, plastic
```



# 03

## RAIN IN SAN CRISTÓBAL

| | |
|---|---|
| FOCUS | an elderly Tzotzil woman |
| GESTURE | walking under the eaves |
| TEMPERATURE | late-afternoon rain |
| GEOGRAPHY | San Cristóbal, Mexico |
| FILM | 35mm film |

*"Seen from a doorway across the street" gave the dark frame on the right.*

PROMPT

```
an elderly Tzotzil woman in a black wool skirt and a hand-woven shawl walking under the wooden eaves of a narrow colonial street in San Cristobal de las Casas, low houses painted ochre, blue and red, rain falling on the cobblestones in the late afternoon, seen from a doorway across the street, damp and gentle, ochre, indigo, wet stone, 35mm film --ar 4:5 --style raw --s 100 --v 8.2 --no 3d render, CGI, plastic
```

IMAGE 04



# 04

## ANTIGUA, UNDER THE ARCH

| | |
|---|---|
| FOCUS | a fruit vendor |
| GESTURE | a basket of mangos on her head |
| TEMPERATURE | golden hour, unhurried |
| GEOGRAPHY | Antigua, Guatemala |
| FILM | Kodak Ektar 100 |

*Golden hour plus Ektar: the warmest image of the set.*

PROMPT

```
a Mayan fruit vendor in a colourful huipil balancing a basket of mangos on her head, walking under the yellow Santa Catalina arch in Antigua Guatemala, the Agua volcano rising at the end of the cobblestone street, golden hour, seen from the middle of the street, warm and unhurried, saffron yellow, turquoise, volcanic stone, Kodak Ektar 100 --ar 4:5 --style raw --s 100 --v 8.2 --no 3d render, CGI, plastic
```

IMAGE 05



# 05

## THE CRAFTSMAN OF FEZ

| | |
|---|---|
| FOCUS | his hands |
| GESTURE | chiseling zellige tiles |
| TEMPERATURE | hard midday sun |
| GEOGRAPHY | Fez, Morocco |
| FILM | 85mm |

*Close-ups work when there's a concrete object: the tile dust on his fingers.*

PROMPT

```
an old Moroccan craftsman with a white beard chiseling tiny zellige tiles inside the courtyard of a medieval madrasa in Fez, one hard shaft of midday sun falling on his hands, carved cedar and plaster walls rising around him, close enough to see the tile dust on his fingers, patient and timeless, cobalt blue, emerald, carved cedar, 85mm --ar 4:5 --style raw --s 100 --v 8.2 --no 3d render, CGI, plastic
```



# 06

## GEORGIA, THE WAVE BUS STOP

| | |
|---|---|
| FOCUS | a woman waiting |
| GESTURE | holding her shopping bag |
| TEMPERATURE | snow at blue hour, lonely |
| GEOGRAPHY | rural Georgia |
| FILM | Kodak Tri-X 400 |

*Tri-X is a black-and-white film: it forced B&W and kept only the red scarf.*

PROMPT

```
an old woman in a fur hat and wool coat waiting with a string shopping bag at a Soviet-era brutalist concrete bus stop shaped like a giant wave, on an empty road in rural Georgia, snow falling at blue hour, seen from across the road, cold and lonely, slate blue, concrete grey, one red scarf, Kodak Tri-X 400 --ar 4:5 --style raw --s 100 --v 8.2 --no 3d render, CGI, plastic
```



# 07

## PALM SPRINGS, THE OPEN DOOR

| | |
|---|---|
| FOCUS | the house |
| GESTURE | a man in the open door |
| TEMPERATURE | late sun, dry air |
| GEOGRAPHY | Palm Springs, USA |
| FILM | wide-angle 24mm |

*"Standing in the open front door" put a man in the door instead of moving the camera.*

PROMPT

```
a mid-century modern house in Palm Springs with a flat cantilevered roof and floor-to-ceiling glass, a 1960s cream convertible parked under the carport, San Jacinto mountains behind, standing in the open front door, architectural photograph, late afternoon sun, dry clear air, bone white, terracotta, raw concrete, wide-angle 24mm, one open door --ar 4:5 --style raw --s 100 --v 8.2 --no 3d render, CGI, plastic
```



# 08

## TIP: THE SALK CHANNEL

| | |
|---|---|
| FOCUS | the water channel |
| GESTURE | walking alone |
| TEMPERATURE | late sun, dry air |
| GEOGRAPHY | La Jolla, USA |
| FILM | wide-angle 24mm |

*Tip: 07 and 08 share the same tail and look like twins. Change all five answers if you want a new world.*

PROMPT

```
the travertine courtyard of the Salk Institute in La Jolla, a thin channel of water running toward the Pacific, an old scientist in a white coat walking alone with his hands behind his back, seen from the far end of the courtyard, architectural photograph, late afternoon sun, dry clear air, bone white, terracotta, raw concrete, wide-angle 24mm, one open door --ar 4:5 --style raw --s 100 --v 8.2 --no 3d render, CGI, plastic
```

YOUR TURN

# Answer the five questions for a place you know. Then change all five.

Post both images below with your answers. Did you get two different worlds?

CREDIT

Method: Juan Carlos Beltrán, *Midjourney as a Creative Tool.*

NEXT

Ep. 26: Niji 8 is here.