

Celebratory Spirits of the Mandis

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Who is Misi Saljong?



The Mandis are one of the fewest matrilineal societies in the world.





Songsarek, the belief of the blessings

Annual

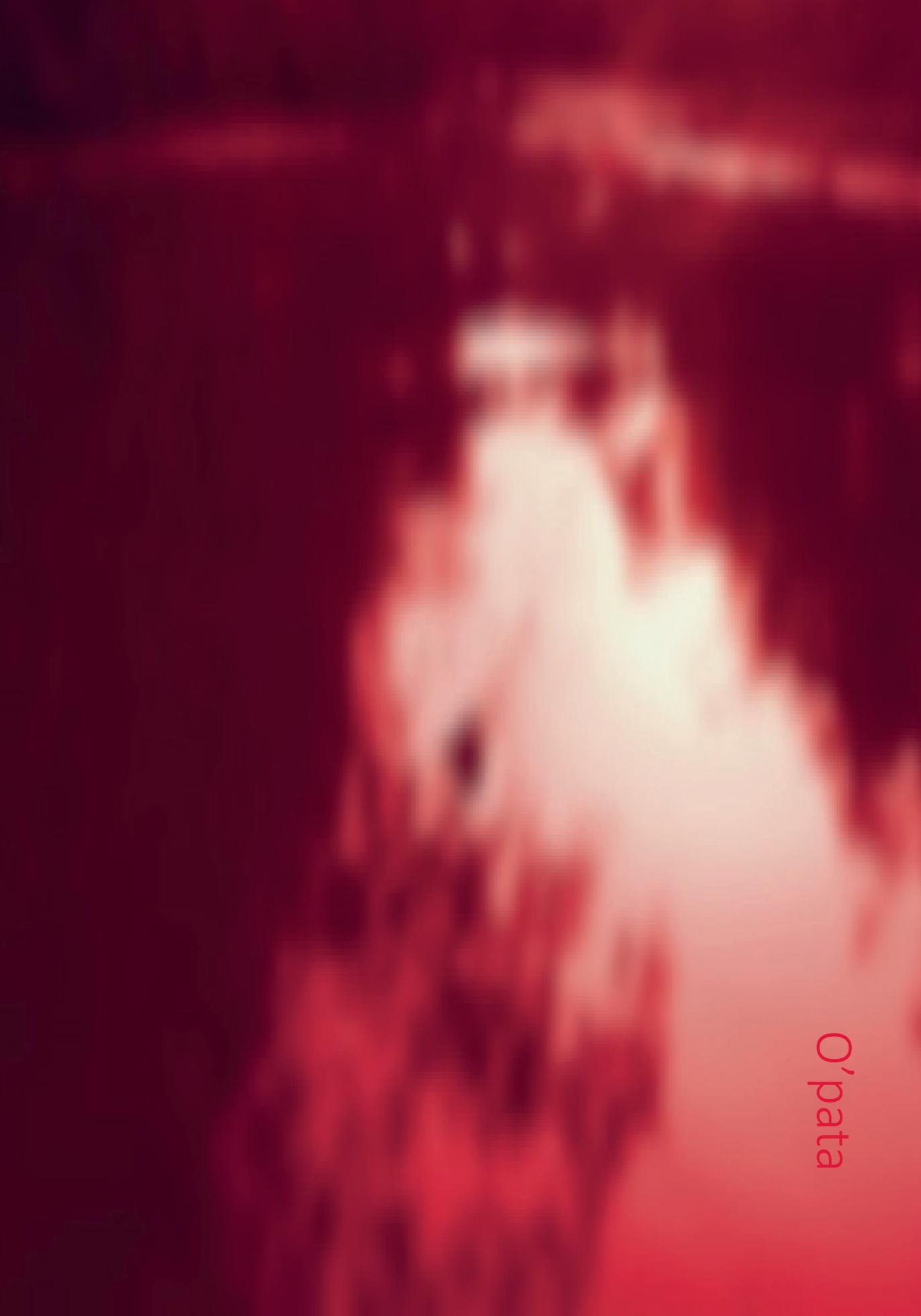
Agricultural

Cycle

When is Wangala?

Nature will bless,
Carry the essence
It is the cycle of
harvest,
an array of festivals

O'pata



A blurred background image showing a mountain range under a hazy sky. On the right side, a person is partially visible, wearing a dark jacket and a hat, looking towards the mountains. The overall tone is soft and atmospheric.

Mandis believe in good and bad omen. The reality of O'pata is dictated by the dreams.

the plot of the dream shall dictate
you will see, is what you will get
good dream is good omen

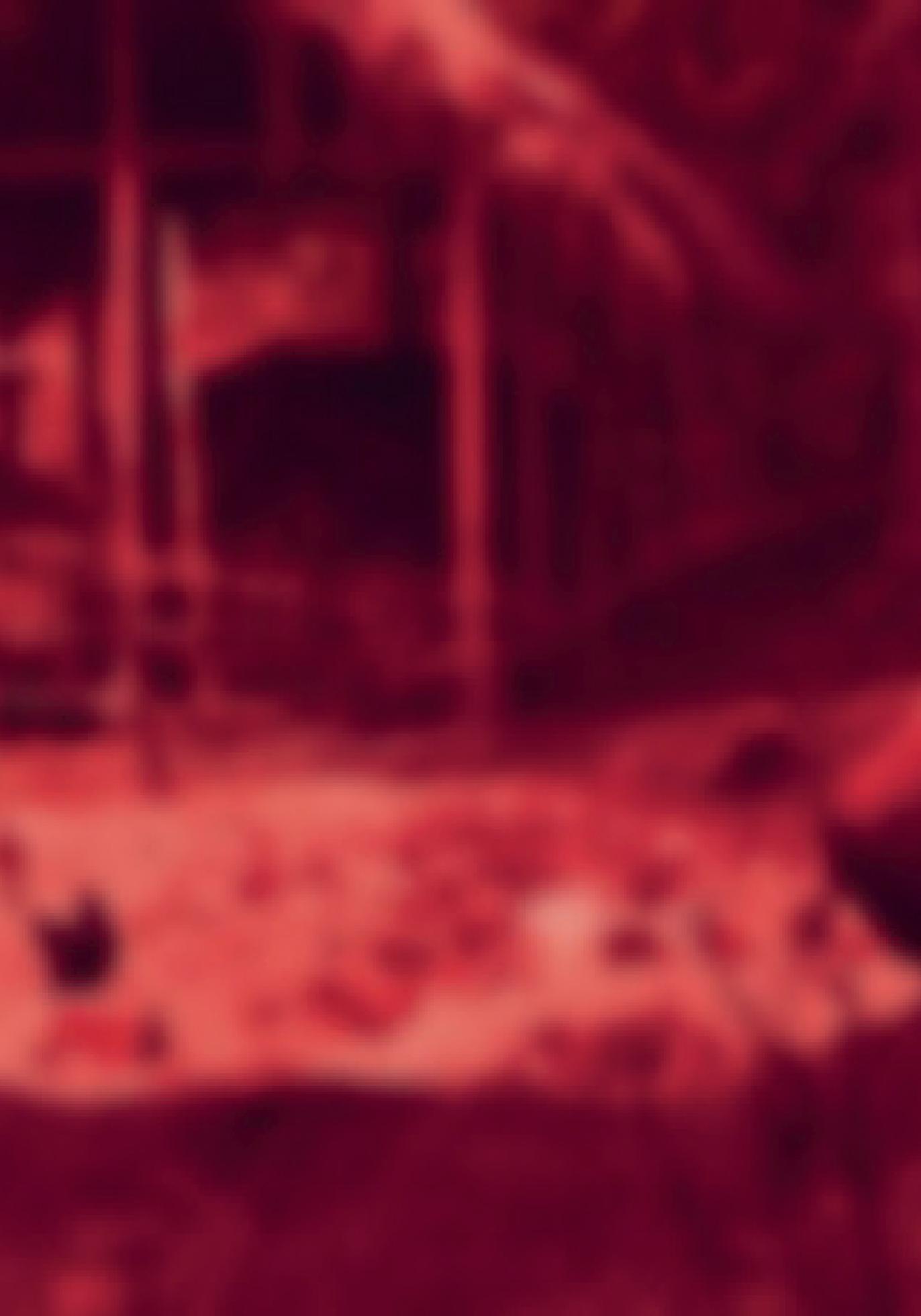
Rokimema?

Den'bisila

god of rice



Clearing of the land to be blessed
with good harvest



Sree Tonggitchak-Gitok-Warikaw



A'gai

mother of
rooster
and
rice
beer
offer
of
thr

CHINA

chardonnay

churaronna
churaronna
churaronna
churaronna

free
land
from
pollution

**Burning of the jhum
begins**

Rongchungala



mib-

itch.



say goodbye to all negative energy now say
thanks for the first fruits to misi sa/jong

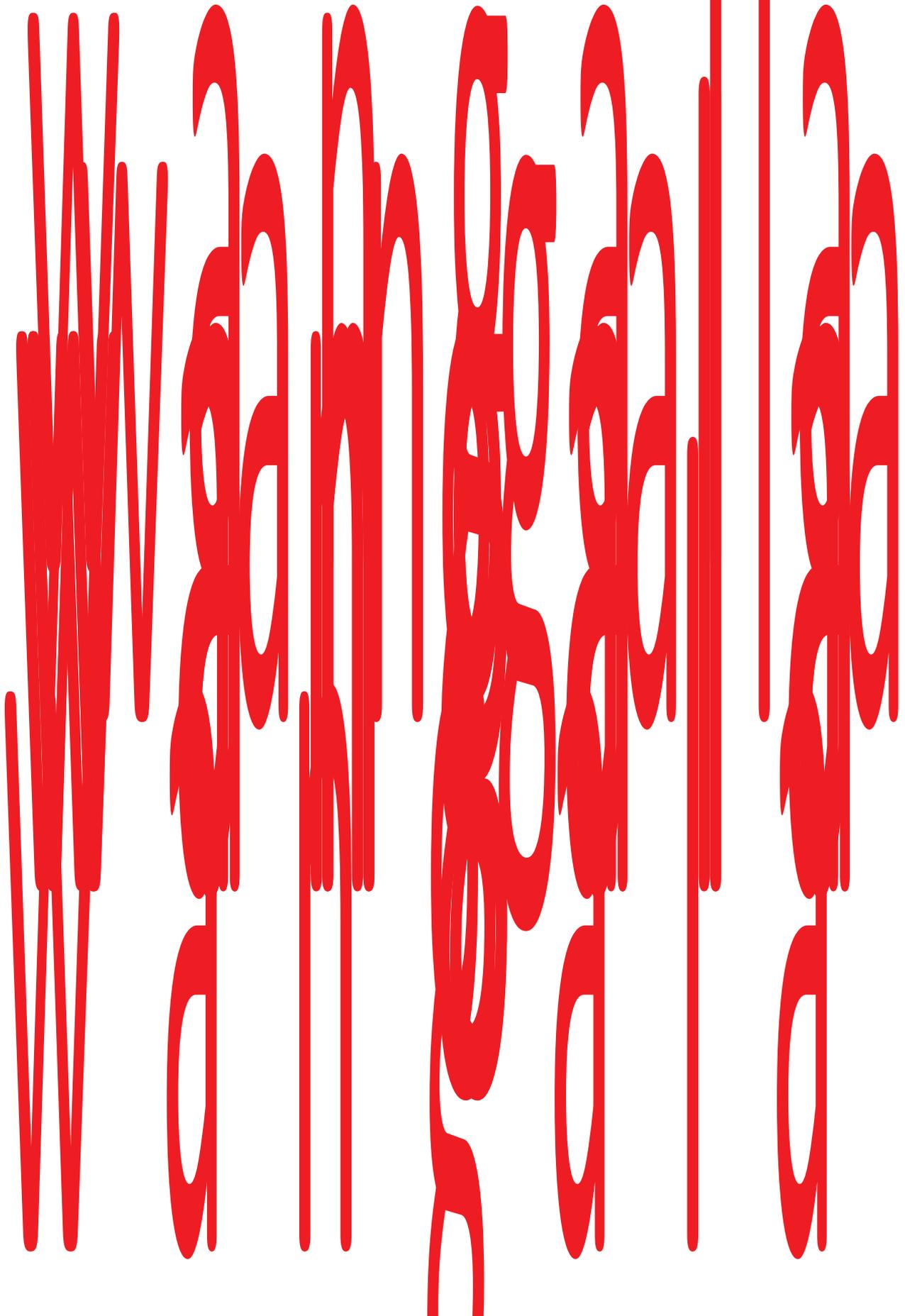


Thanks giving ceremony

offering on a bamboo leaf

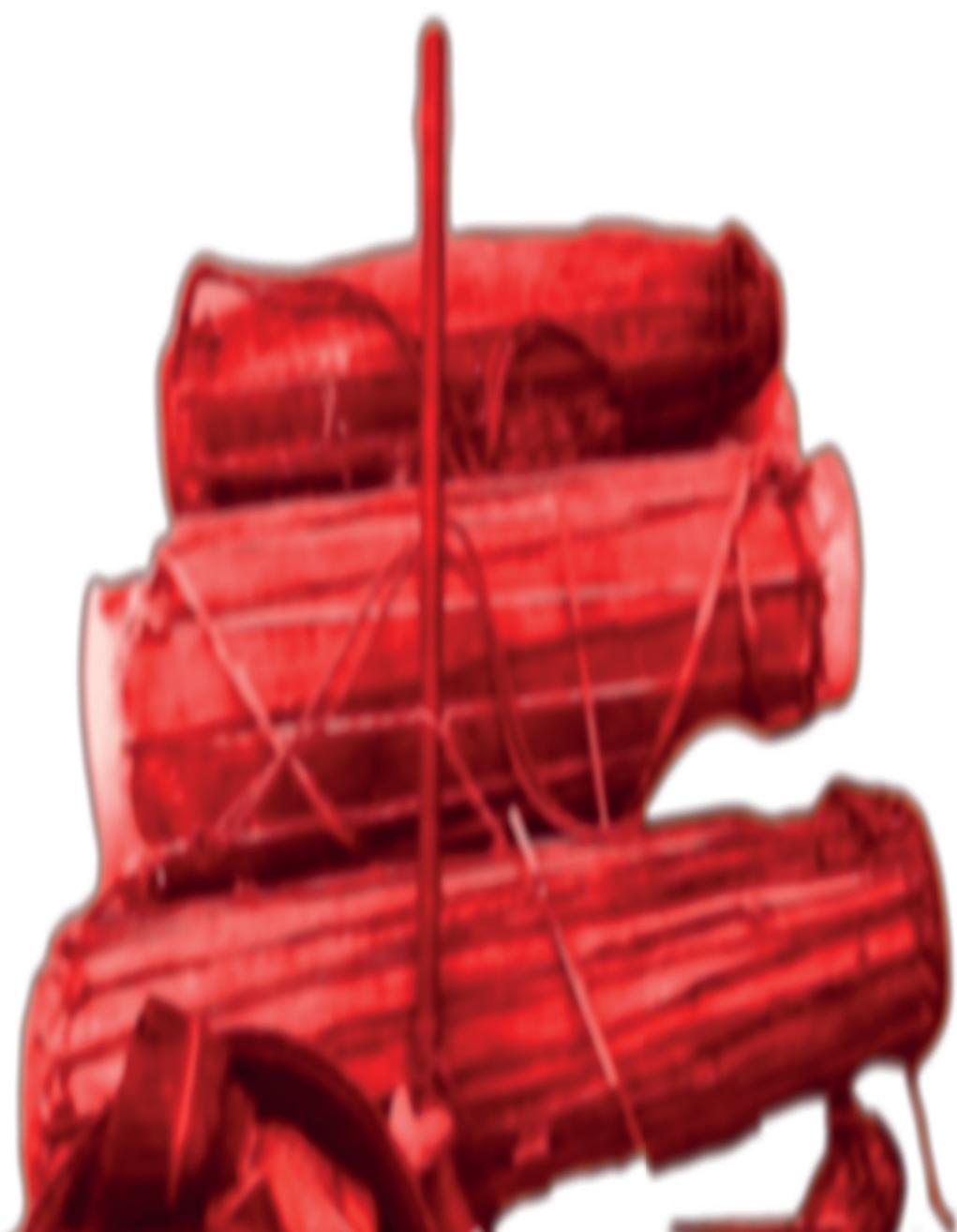
sprinkled with rice beer

In Bangladesh, jhum cultivation has been made illegal, making the cultures associated, lost.



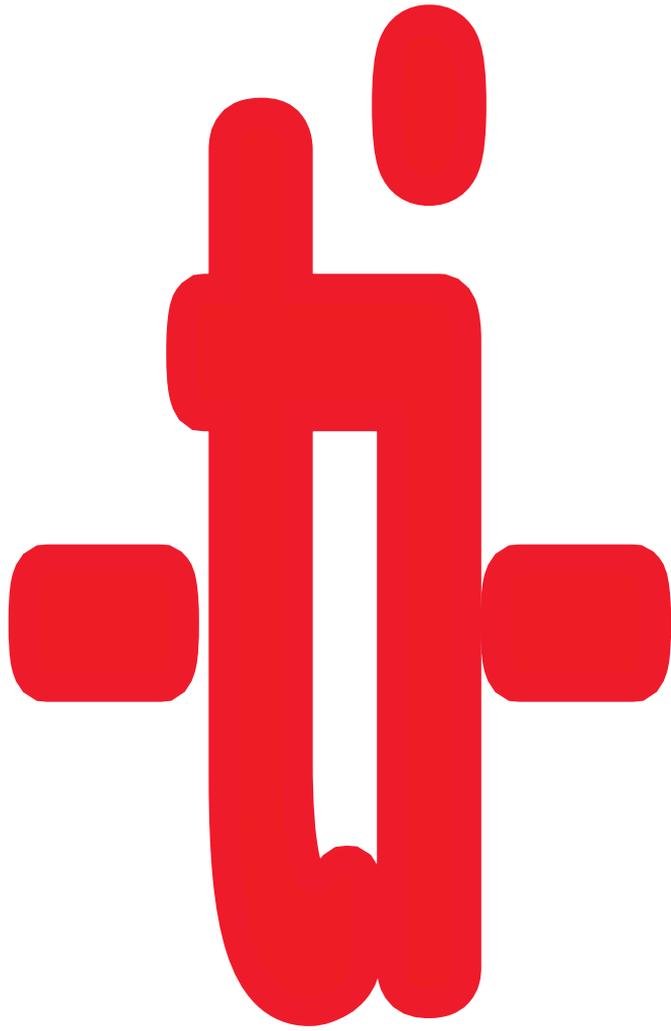








wan.



-toko

to have blessed us all cycle. And give thanks to Meen ma
angala ,pay a bidding farewell to the gods
The time has come for
Drongrma

smear
it on the house, smear it on the
back, smear the paste all over and
everywhere -

the smoke of the incense will take the s

Incense from the Cha'chat tree is
burned

shape of the impending clouds

Cha'chat

100

100

mountain



flowers

everyday



love

birds

sky



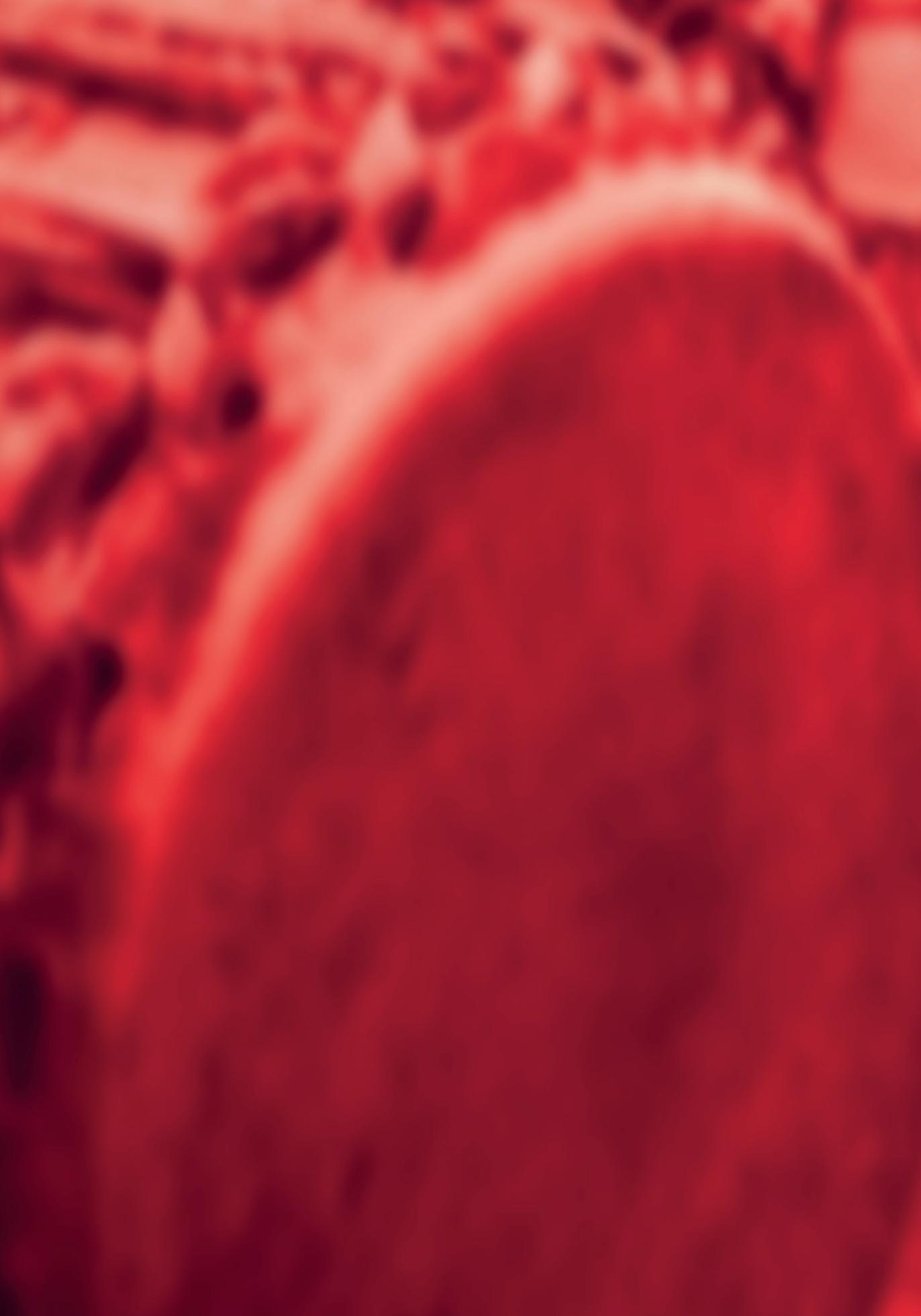
sea













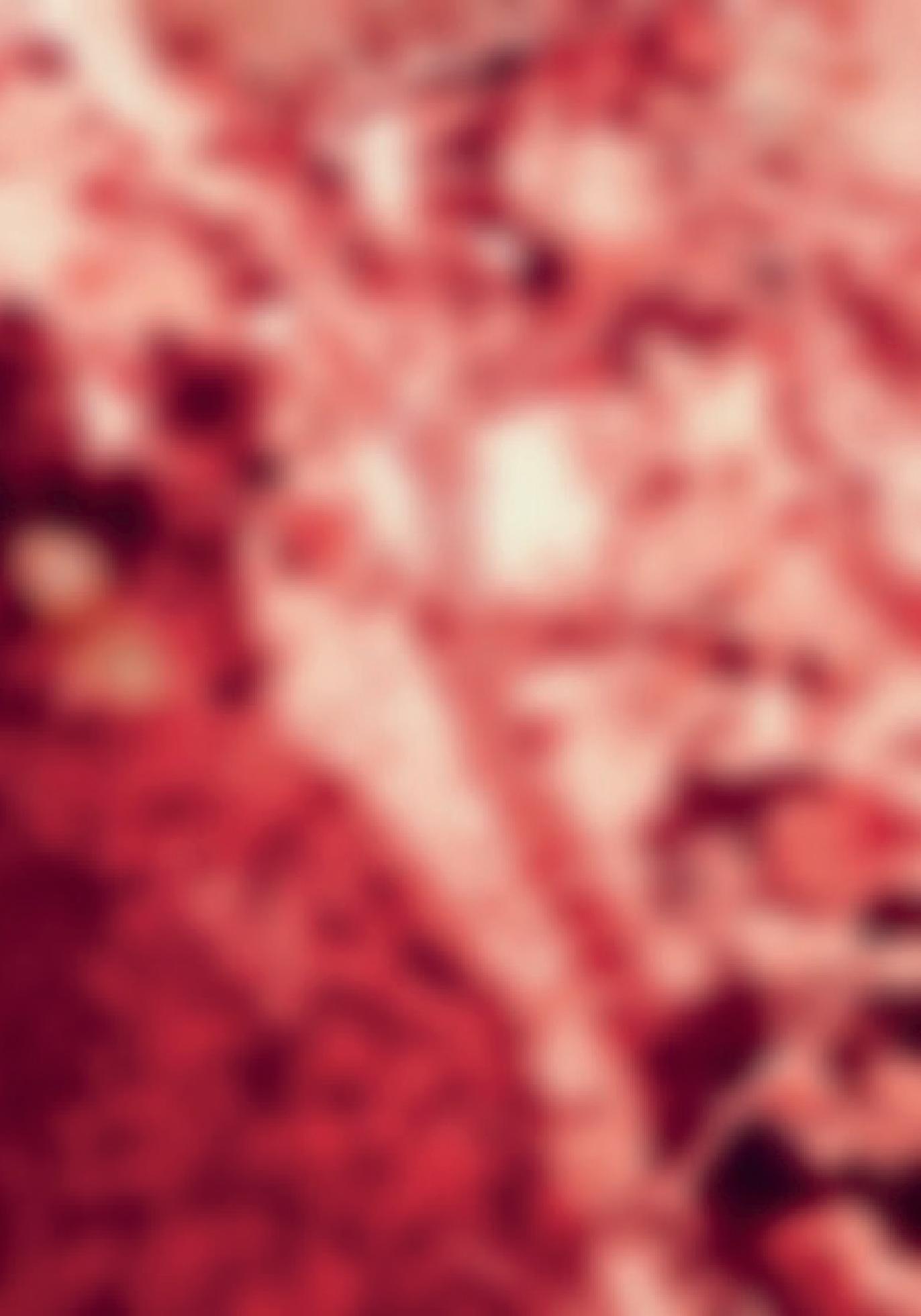


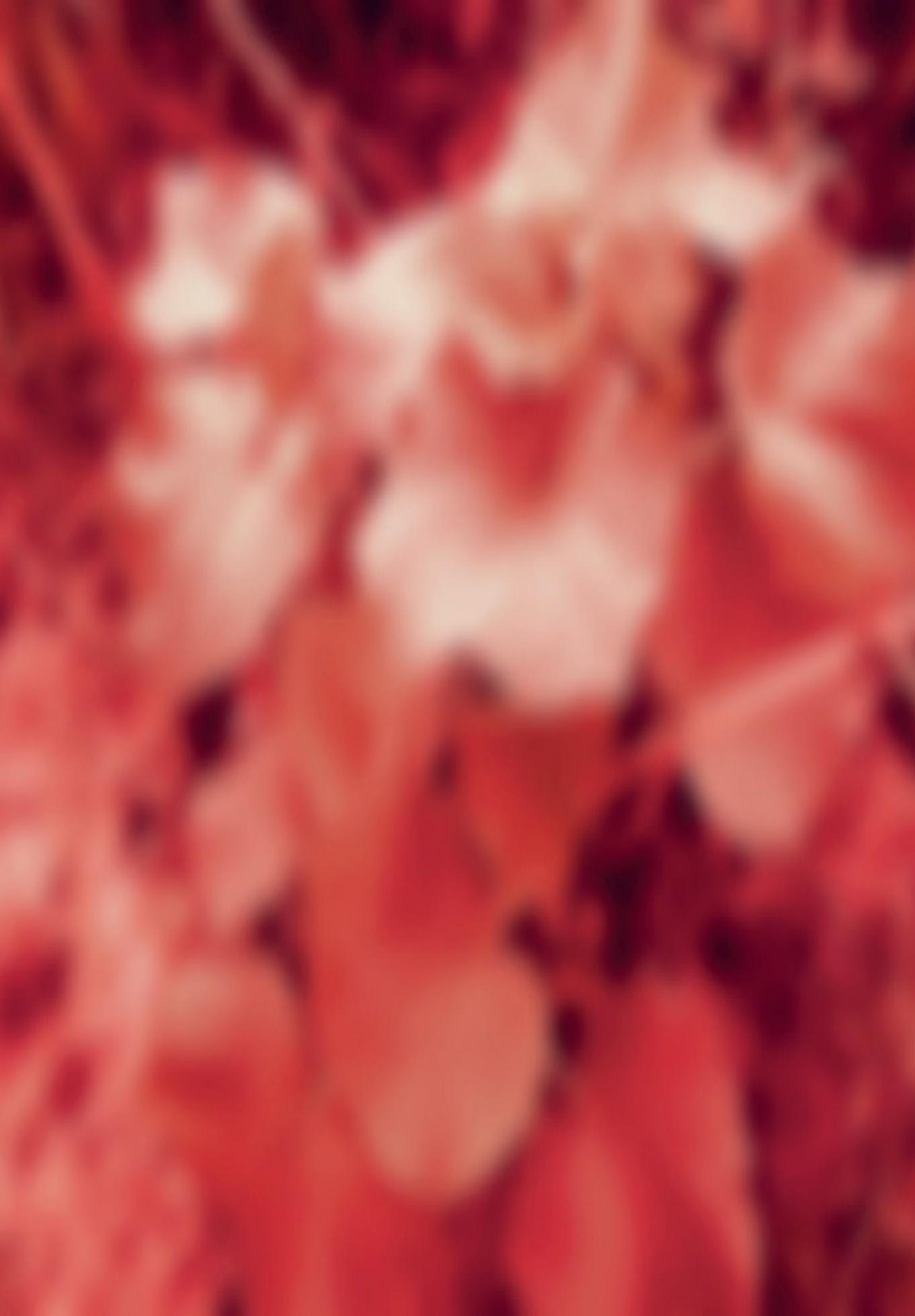
you may
find your
love in the
spirit of
love and
joy and
laughter in
the danc-
es and
songs for
the spirits
who have
b l e s s e d

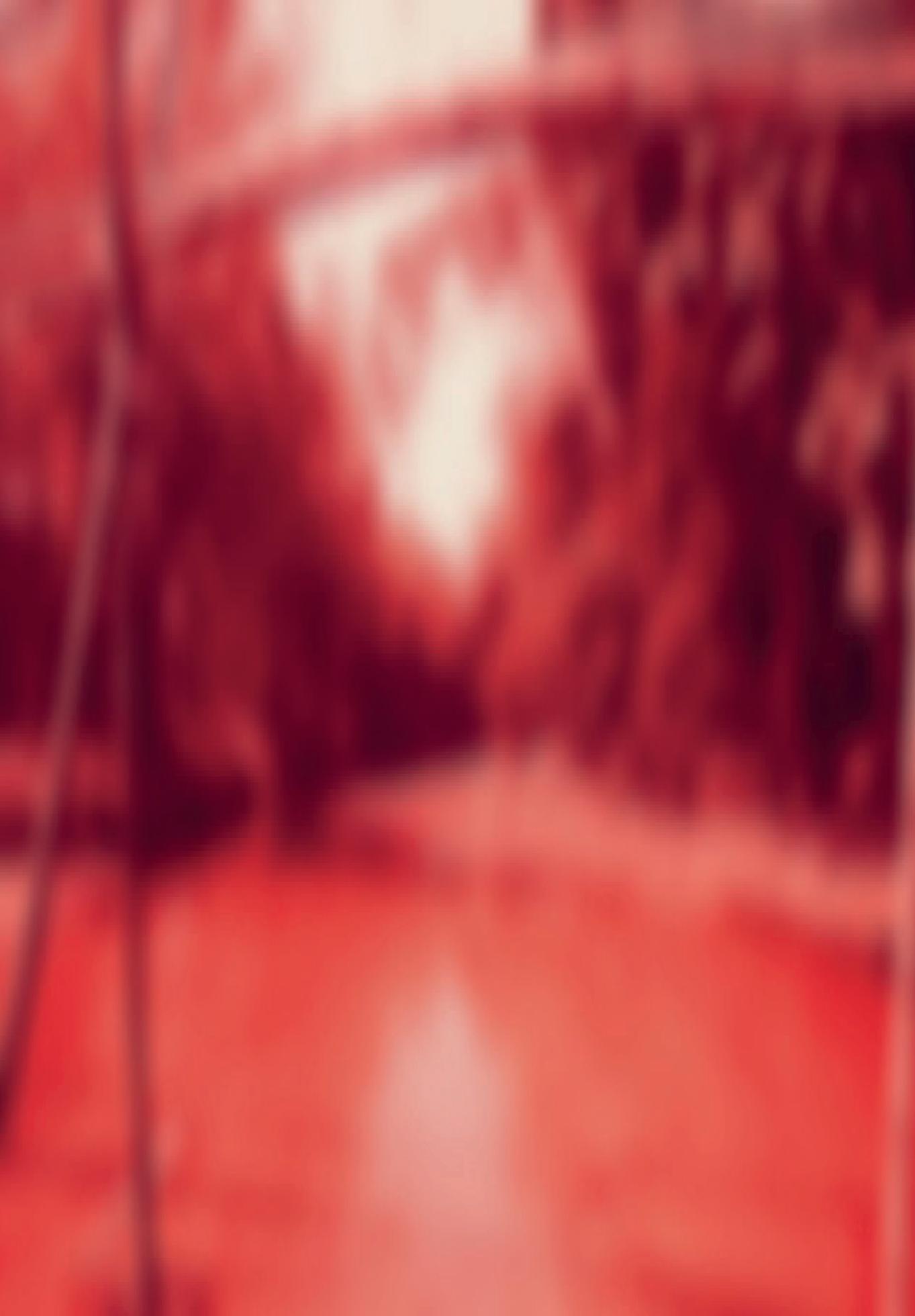
songs and
dance and
laughter
of 50 or
more dis-
tinct styles
to emulate
the natu-
ral tones
of birds,
animals,
mountains,
oceans
and every-
day lives

It is not to worship,
but it is to thank
for all we have is
what nature gives
and it is nature
we must turn to











Mandi is an indigeneous community that has lost its written language many moons ago, and is under continuous tension of losing its tradition. Their traditions are a reflection of the reality of the universe. I chose to blur the images to illustrate the reality of the life of the Mandis, that is often overshadowed and blurred out. Growing up amidst the intersecting universe of the two, set the perspective of being an outsider yet an insider, often resulting in an exploration of life on the other side of the shadow. Parts of the ceremonies and the subtle nuances are already lost and is preserved in memory and history. I chose to explore the rich ritualistic history of the Mandis in an attempt to capture the essence of the life and the living, a poetic harmony with all that surrounds us.

In remembering and documenting
the ritualistic intonations through
the celebratory spirits of the Mandis.

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Photographed by,
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Referenced from a paper by,
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