

Free E-Magazine

The Unknown

UNKNOWN

READING FOR CONNOISSEURS OF THE UNKNOWN

THE LOCH NESS MONSTER
MYSTERIES OF THE WORLD
EXORCIST - WATCH IT NOW!
THE POSSESSION OF DHARANI
EXORCISM IN INDIA
Q & A WITH A WORKING WOMAN
THE BLACK MAGIC CAPITAL OF INDIA

Issue 03 Vol 01
September 13, 2025

*the unknown / beyond life / travel / offbeat
art / paranormal / faith / death / and after*



THE UNKNOWN

I DOUBT, THEREFORE I THINK. THEREFORE I AM

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paranormal / faith / death / and after / and so on...*

ISSUE 03, VOL 01 SEPTEMBER 13, 2025

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FROM THE EDITOR

It's strange that despite the many arguable proofs of the existence of spirits and an unknown world, many still miss out the key element that binds all religions together. While all religions believe in the existence of a paranormal streak - some attribute it to the dead, others to malevolent sprits, their individual rituals and every shaman practicing a different religion, is able to exorcise the spirits away. So, does that not prove that all religions are equally viable? Equally superior?

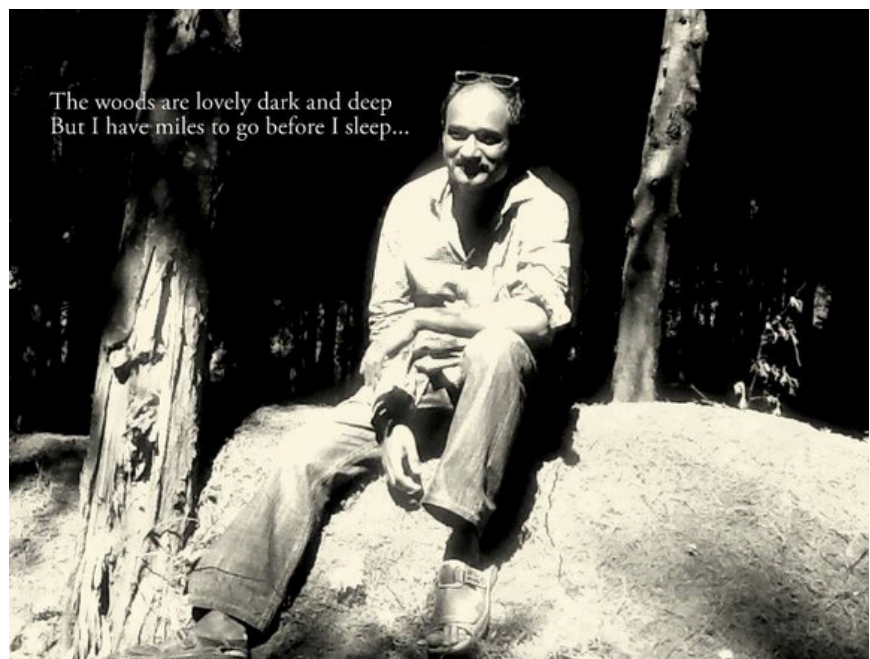
Perhaps this answers the more important question - is our subconscious so ingrained by all the indoctrination that it outlives death and permeates into the spirit world? That is why every shaman of every other religion, is able to drive out these spirits by their own prescribed rituals.

Movies and books are known to churn out fiction that presents us visuals of horror. That is bunk. But then there or tales of vengeful spirits that cause bodily harm which is emphatically debunked by science as improbable. But I have heard of that. Of people waking up with inexplicable scratches on their bodies even though they have had no altercation with any spirits, in their dreams or in realty. Oh well, thing is, we should be open to all suggestions.

In this issue we cover exorcism - from the movie, **The Exorcist**, to **Exorcism sites in India**, to a real life story of possession - **The Possession of Dharani** - and to add something to the festive season, **Ganapati Bappa Moriya!**

Have a great read!

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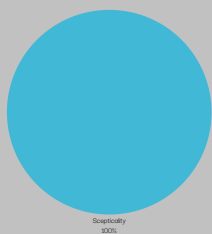
UILEBHEIST LOCH NIS

Nessie is a legendary cryptid believed to live in Loch Ness, Scotland. Despite numerous alleged sightings and decades of scientific searches, there is no conclusive evidence of its existence. The legend is a significant part of Scottish folklore and a major tourist attraction.

Key Points:

- **Early History:** The earliest tale resembling a Nessie encounter dates back to A.D. 565, in a story about Saint Columba. The modern legend gained popularity in 1933 after a new road was built along the loch and a report of a sighting was published in the Inverness Courier.
- **Famous Sightings and Hoaxes:** The most iconic piece of alleged evidence was the "surgeon's photograph" from 1934, which appeared to show a long-necked creature. This photo was revealed to be a hoax in 1994, created using a toy submarine. Other hoaxes, such as the use of a hippo-foot umbrella stand to create footprints, have also been exposed.
- **Scientific Expeditions:** Numerous expeditions, including sonar sweeps like "Operation Deepscan" in 1987, have failed to find definitive proof. A 2018–2019 environmental DNA study found no evidence of a large animal like a plesiosaur but did find a significant amount of European eel DNA.
- **Proposed Explanations:** Skeptics and scientists offer several explanations for the sightings:
 - **Giant Eels:** The theory that large eels could be the source of sightings is supported by the recent DNA analysis.
 - **Misidentification:** People may have mistaken known animals like seals, otters, or swimming deer for the monster.
 - **Inanimate Objects:** Floating logs, debris, or waves can be misinterpreted as a creature.
 - **Psychological and Folklore Phenomena:** Sightings are sometimes explained as a psychological phenomenon or a modern continuation of older Scottish folklore about water spirits.
 - **Optical Illusions:** Atmospheric conditions can create mirages on the loch's surface.
- **Economic Impact:** The legend of Nessie is a huge draw for tourists, attracting around a million visitors to Loch Ness annually and significantly boosting the local economy.

Despite the debunked hoaxes and scientific explanations, the mystery of the Loch Ness Monster endures as a compelling modern myth.



Sceptically
2024





Exorcist ★★★★★

Possessions are real. It happens. But, it really has to do with the subconscious and is never as dramatic as shown in the movies or described in books. But we are gluttons for horror and the unknown. The movie, *Exorcist*, which released almost 52 years ago, is a classic that needs to be seen.

The film begins with a prologue in Iraq, where archaeologist Father Lankester Merrin unearths a relic of the demon Pazuzu. The main story then shifts to Georgetown, Washington, D.C., where actress Chris MacNeil and her daughter, Regan, are living. Regan's behaviour becomes increasingly strange and violent.

It starts with strange sounds and her bed shaking, and escalates to her urinating on the carpet during a party. After a series of negative medical tests, her condition worsens dramatically. She becomes violent, her head spins, and she speaks in different voices. She also kills Chris's friend, Burke Dennings, by turning his head backwards.

Suspecting demonic possession, Chris seeks help from Father Damien Karras, a Roman Catholic priest and psychologist struggling with his own faith. After a disturbing encounter where Regan, speaking in a deep voice, claims to be the Devil and vomits green bile, Karras agrees that an exorcism is necessary.


The Church grants permission, and Father Merrin—the archaeologist from the beginning of the film—is summoned to assist Karras. The two priests begin the exorcism ritual, but the demon, Pazuzu, reacts violently. It thrashes Regan, levitates her bed, and taunts the priests, specifically preying on Karras's guilt over his mother's death.

The climax is something horrific and as usual we are left pondering whether spirits are really as powerful as they are portrayed? Does the idea that the director presents to us have any shades of reality? Perhaps they do. There have been tales of it happening across the globe. There are sites where the possessed are taken and the spirits are exorcised. It's real. It happens. Perhaps the movie might help.



Mysteries of the world

The World over there are strange and bizarre landmark creations - from Stonehenge in UK to the stone faces in Easter Island and many more that remain enigmatic even today.

 Our world is full of unsolved mysteries that have captivated people for centuries. These enigmas, which range from ancient archaeological wonders to strange modern-day events, challenge our understanding of history, science, and the unknown. Let's explore some of the most famous unsolved mysteries from around the world, including several fascinating ones from India.

Global Enigmas

These mysteries span different continents and time periods, each one a unique puzzle.

Historical & Archaeological Puzzles

- The Lost City of Atlantis: The legend of this advanced, sunken civilization continues to inspire countless searches and stories. Its existence remains unproven, but the myth endures. .
- The Voynich Manuscript: This ancient book is written in an undecipherable script and filled with bizarre illustrations of unknown plants and astronomical charts. Despite countless attempts, no one has been able to translate it.
- The Nazca Lines: Etched into the Peruvian desert floor, these massive geoglyphs depict animals and geometric shapes. Their purpose and how they were created remain a mystery to archaeologists.
- Stonehenge: Researchers have long debated the

purpose of this iconic stone circle in England. Theories range from an ancient astronomical observatory to a ceremonial burial ground. The sheer effort to build it is a testament to the marvel of ancient engineering.

- The Terracotta Army: While the army itself is well-known, the vast, undisturbed mausoleum of Emperor Qinshihuang it guards remains a mystery. Full excavation is prevented due to the fear of damaging priceless artifacts and the use of mercury to simulate rivers.

Unexplained Disappearances & Events

- Amelia Earhart's Disappearance: The legendary aviator vanished in 1937 while attempting to fly around the world. Her plane and crew were never found, making her fate one of aviation's greatest mysteries.
- The Bermuda Triangle: This area of the Atlantic is famous for the reported disappearance of numerous ships and aircraft. While many of the events have been explained, the legend of a mysterious vortex persists.



- The Dyatlov Pass Incident: In 1959, nine Russian hikers died under bizarre circumstances in the Ural Mountains. Their tent was found cut open from the inside, and some of their bodies showed severe, unexplained injuries.
- The Tunguska Event: A massive explosion in Siberia in 1908 flattened millions of trees over 2,000 square kilometers. The leading theory is a meteor airburst, but no impact crater was ever found.
- The Fate of the Mary Celeste: The brigantine Mary Celeste was found adrift and completely seaworthy in 1872, yet its entire crew was gone. The disappearance of the crew from a perfectly sound vessel remains a classic maritime mystery.

India's Unexplained Phenomena

With its ancient heritage and diverse landscapes, India has its own unique set of mysteries.

Strange Occurrences & Places

Jatinga's Mass Bird Suicides: In this village in Assam, migratory birds inexplicably fly into buildings and trees

at night, leading to their deaths. Scientists haven't found a definitive explanation for this strange behavior.

- Magnetic Hill: Located in Ladakh, this is a remarkable optical illusion. The surrounding landscape creates the sensation that vehicles are being pulled uphill against gravity.
- The Aleya Ghost Lights: These strange glowing lights are sometimes seen flickering in the marshes of West Bengal. Local folklore attributes them to the spirits of dead fishermen, while some scientists believe they are a form of natural gas ionization.
- Roopkund Lake (Skeleton Lake): This high-altitude lake in Uttarakhand is filled with the skeletons of hundreds of ancient humans that become visible when the ice melts each summer.
- Bhangarh Fort: This 17th-century fort in Rajasthan is considered one of India's most haunted places.
- Kuldhara Village: About 200 years ago, this Rajasthani village was mysteriously deserted overnight. It remains an eerie ghost town, frozen in time.
- Karni Mata Temple: In this unique temple in Rajasthan, thousands of rats are considered sacred and protected. They are believed to be the reincarnated descendants of a revered family.



JAYANTI UNNIKRISHNAN

The Possession of Dharani

He was simmering with irritation, a sour feeling that had become his constant companion. His wife, Dharani, was far away, and he was a prisoner in his own daughter's home, dependent on her and her husband. It was a humiliating reality he had created. Years ago, while he was still employed, he had let drink ruin his life and their marriage. Worn out and broken, Dharani had left him, finding a new purpose as a live-in maid for a wealthy family.

After she was gone, his life shattered completely. He lost his job, then his home, until his son-in-law offered him a final lifeline: he could live with them, but only if he never touched a drink again.

With his sobriety came a small amount of savings—a thousand rupees, all he had to his name. Fuelled by a desperate, aimless anger, he sought out a Baba he'd heard about, a mystic who supposedly performed miracles. He went to find the Baba by the Kanyakumari-Kashmir highway that ran past Tirunelveli, ready to do something, anything, to change his miserable situation.

He did not know what he wanted. And he realised it when the Baba asked him, "What do you want?" Embarrassed, the man stroked his chin. He had told the man his problems and expected the Baba to tell him what to do.

"Do you want your wife to come back?"

The man replied, "I don't know...." He really didn't know.

"Get me some of her things... I will do my work. Perhaps she might come back, perhaps she'll die. Either way you will get your heart's desire." The Baba said as he pocketed the 500 Rupee note.

The man didn't know what his heart's desire was, but he accepted the bargain. He just had to do something. Something.

Around that time demure and introvert Dharani was comfortable with her providers. But old age – she was nearing 60 – had made her weak, with buckling knees and a racking back pain, aggravated when she lifted heavy objects. She was breathless lately when she had been forced to carry some heavy stuff – the elevator was shut off due to maintenance.

One day she was sent shopping with the teen daughter. On the way back they had a four heavy bags. Till the apartment they had taken a cab but at the apartment, the elevator was again out and they had to climb up to seven floors. The old lady gave one lighter bag to the girl and then proceeded up the stairs without a sound. While the teen girl struggled on the fourth floor the old lady was ringing the bell to her employer's house.

"The lift is out again. We had to climb up all the way. Roshni is behind me... on the way." Dharani said to the lady of the house who did not notice anything amiss. But a lot of things were. The sari's end, the pallu, usually covered her head, was down one shoulder. There was a gruffness in her voice. She put the bags in the kitchen and sat on the chair. A few moments later Roshni came in huffing and puffing. She plunged on to the couch and looked at her mother and said, "How come the old woman, that Dharaniamma... could walk up so fast and without any strain?" The lady laughed.

She felt it was just a teen outburst.

The Possession of Dharani

It was not. There was something very wrong with Dharani. Over the next few weeks, it was obvious to everyone who came into contact with her, at moments she was becoming another person. Gone was the docility and shyness. The sari was carelessly draped and the pallu was never over the head. One day, Roshni caught her smoking a beedi. With her legs wide and one hand on the hip, like a sturdy man confidence spilling over, she stood and smoked impudently in the balcony.

Roshni was shocked. She yelled, "Dharaniamma, what are you doing???"

Dharani looked at her calmly. "Smoking."

"But," Roshni stammered, "Dharaniamma you never did it before... What's up with you."

"I was always smoking... as far as I can remember." Dharani rebutted. "Nothing's up with me and why do you keep calling me Dharaniamma... I am not Dharaniamma... I am Vanam."

Roshni, consumed with school and her upcoming annual exams, had little time for the housemaid, but the encounter shook her. She went straight to her mother, who was taken aback by the news. "Smoking a beedi? Oh god, Swami Balaji save her. She's really off her rocker!" The mother confronted Dharani, and later that evening, she told her husband everything.

"Dharani is possessed," she concluded. "We need to do something." The husband had questions, but he agreed. A few days later, a priest came and confirmed the possession.

The full weight of the possession was lost on Roshni, who found a strange enjoyment in the once-shy woman's new, frivolous personality. Dharani, now Vanam, behaved like a man but was



never violent and obeyed when asked to do something.

"Why did you come here?" Roshni asked her amidst of a torrent of questions.

"I came to take her," she replied.

"So why didn't you?"

"Because of him," she said, pointing to the idol of Lord Balaji in the prayer room. "He stopped me twice."

The exorcism took place a few days later, with a flurry of scriptures and chants. Dharani fainted and later woke up, her old self again.

But it didn't last. A few weeks later, Vanam returned. The couple decided they had to send her away. The growing child was at risk, and they didn't know what might happen. They called Dharani's daughter and told her that her mother wanted to return home.

Two days later, the man who had gone to the Baba showed up at the door. Dharani opened it. He looked surprised and blurted, "How come you are still alive?"





EXORCISM IN INDIA

Indian towns and villages have long been associated with the practice of exorcism, rooted in a blend of ancient traditions, local folklore, and religious beliefs. These sites, often centred around temples, attract thousands of people seeking relief from what they believe are malevolent spirits, black magic, or curses.

Prominent Sites for Exorcism in India

- **Mehandipur Balaji Temple, Rajasthan:** Located in Rajasthan, this temple dedicated to Lord Hanuman is arguably one of the most famous sites for exorcism in India. Thousands of devotees, regardless of their background, flock here to witness and participate in rituals aimed at expelling possessing spirits. Visitors often report seeing individuals screaming, convulsing, and displaying other erratic behavior as priests perform rituals to drive out evil forces.
- **Chougan (Chogan), Madhya Pradesh:** This village is home to a temple where exorcism is common practice, particularly for members of the Gond tribe. Rituals here can be intense, sometimes involving beating the possessed with chains, tridents, and spears. The temple also features a gigantic iron ladder, believed to be a passage for deities, which priests climb to acquire spiritual power.
- **Malajpur, Madhya Pradesh:** Known for its annual "Ghost Fair," Malajpur is home to the Devji Maharaj temple. For over 300 years, people believed to be possessed have gathered during the full moon to participate in rituals. These rituals can include being beaten with a broom and running around the temple courtyard. It's believed that successfully exorcised spirits become trapped in nearby banyan trees.
- **Kamakhya Temple, Assam:** A major center for Tantric worship in Guwahati, this temple is also known for its mystical rituals aimed at warding off evil spirits. These practices are most famously performed during the annual Ambubachi Mela.
- **Vindhyavasini Devi Temple, Uttar Pradesh:** This temple, located on the banks of the Ganges River, has a small, locked "cave of spirits" where exorcism rituals are performed. Afterwards exorcists guide the spirit into the locked cave, where it is believed to be "jailed for eternity."



EXORCISM IN SOUTH INDIA

Within South India, temples and traditional healers in towns and villages are also known for practices related to exorcism and spiritual healing.

- Chottanikkara Bhagavathy Temple, Kerala: Located near Ernakulam, this temple is a highly regarded site for exorcism in South India. At its smaller shrine, Kizhakavu, rituals called Valiya Guruthi are performed. It's believed that the goddess Bhadrakali forces spirits out of possessed individuals, and these spirits are then trapped in a large Paala tree nearby, where devotees hammer nails to seal them in.

- Dattatreya Mandir, Karnataka: This temple is known for its exorcism practices, with possessed individuals reportedly making loud noises during the Maha Mangal Aarti ritual performed on new and full moon days.

The behaviour of possessed individuals described at these sites can also be manifestations of psychological or medical conditions. These exorcism practices are viewed through different lenses, depending on one's perspective on spirituality, religion, and the supernatural.



Make you think...

Ganapati Bappa Moriya!!!

Well some of you might get it right, most others wrong!

What does the term - Bappa Moriya - mean???

Just another word in Marathi meaning Father Come Again?

Not very wrong and neither is it true.

The truth is that in the 13th Century there was a devout young man named Morya Gosavi. He was from Morgaon, 50 odd kms from Pune. He was considered a miracle worker and his fame spread all over Maharashtra. His visions enabled him to have a Ganesh temple built in Chinchwad. His belonging to the Ganapati Sampradaya and his belief was that Ganesha was far more than a remover of obstacles. He was the supreme being.

It is said that Lord Ganesha had blessed and promised that his name would be chanted along with his, And it is true. It is the name we say when we are in the festival season.

Perhaps Bal Gangadhar Tilak had something to do with it. Because during the independence struggle, he decided to use the festival and its propagation to build up national fervour.

Whatever it is, it is the truth is in our face and ears.

Ganapati Bappa Moriya!

How's That!

Here's a tale of Ganapati. Once he was wagered to encircle the three worlds in competition with his brother, Karthik and the fastest would win. While Karthik hit the ground first and took off. Ganesha smiled and slowly approached his mother, Parvati, and went around her in obeisance. and the mother smiled because she knew why Ganesha circled her. She was his universe. (In some versions both parents.)



Ganesha the Scribe

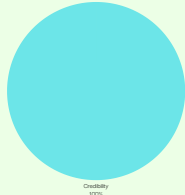
According to Hindu tradition, the sage Vyasa conceived and composed the Mahabharata, while the deity Ganesha served as the scribe who wrote the epic down.

The story of the Mahabharata's creation involves an exchange of conditions between the two figures.

- After composing the immense epic in his mind, Vyasa approached Ganesha for assistance.
- Ganesha agreed to the task, but only if Vyasa could narrate the story continuously, without a single pause.
- Vyasa accepted, but countered with his own condition: Ganesha must understand every verse before he wrote it down.

This pact set the stage for their remarkable intellectual collaboration.

- Providing a break: To compose the next verses when he needed a break, Vyasa would dictate a particularly complex passage. This would cause Ganesha to pause and think deeply about the meaning, giving Vyasa time to rest and frame the next part of the story.



Kokila Shetty



INSIDE THE MIND OF A MILLENNIAL TRADWIFE

Kokila Shetty is not your run-of-the mill stay-at-home wife. She was a graphic designer, having worked earlier but now is a full time home-maker, with a lovely daughter and a husband, a design professional employed with a leading company. She has her family's well-being as her foremost objective and holds filial duties as paramount.

Q

What's life?

Life is a reality that cannot be shaken. It is what you make of it. It requires a lot of hard work to make things happen the way you want it to be. But, that becomes easy with time. So, it's good to live life one day at a time, but you have to plan it years ahead. So everyday is important - live it, but live it responsibly.

Q

What makes you tick?

I think the basic element that guides people is their family. In my case too, my husband and daughter, followed by my mom and brother and cousins and uncles and aunts and my hubby's family and relatives constitute a pivotal role. To bring up my daughter to be a caring and successful human being is my goal.

Q

What's your take on ghosts and such?

I haven't experienced any paranormal events or seen a ghost. But I have heard of happenings that sometimes makes me intrigued. I believe in god and therefore I am open to the belief that paranormal activities do occur. I take comfort in the thought that I am too strong spirituality to be subject to such frivolities.

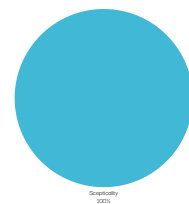
MAYONG BALCK MAGIC CAPITAL OF INDIA?

Mayong, a village located in the Morigaon district of Assam, India, is widely known as the "Land of Black Magic" due to its long-standing reputation for practicing and preserving ancient occult traditions. Situated on the banks of the Brahmaputra River, the village is steeped in legend, with its folklore woven into the fabric of Indian mythology and history.

The Legends of Mayong

The village's mystical reputation is rooted in its historical and mythological connections. According to local belief and ancient texts, including the Mahabharata, the warrior Ghatotkacha—son of Bhima and Hidimba — is said to have gained his magical powers in Mayong. In fact, Hidimba herself is believed to have hailed from the village. This lineage, which is still claimed by the reigning titular king, has contributed to the village's status as a centre for the occult.

The belief in the power of Mayong's magic was so strong that it is said to have influenced historical events. Records like the Alamgir Nama mention that invading armies, including those of Muhammad Shah in 1330 and the Mughals under Raja Ram Singh in the 17th century, were reportedly wary of the magic practiced there. Legends also tell of people disappearing, transforming into animals, or being killed by spells, though these are now largely regarded as old folktales.

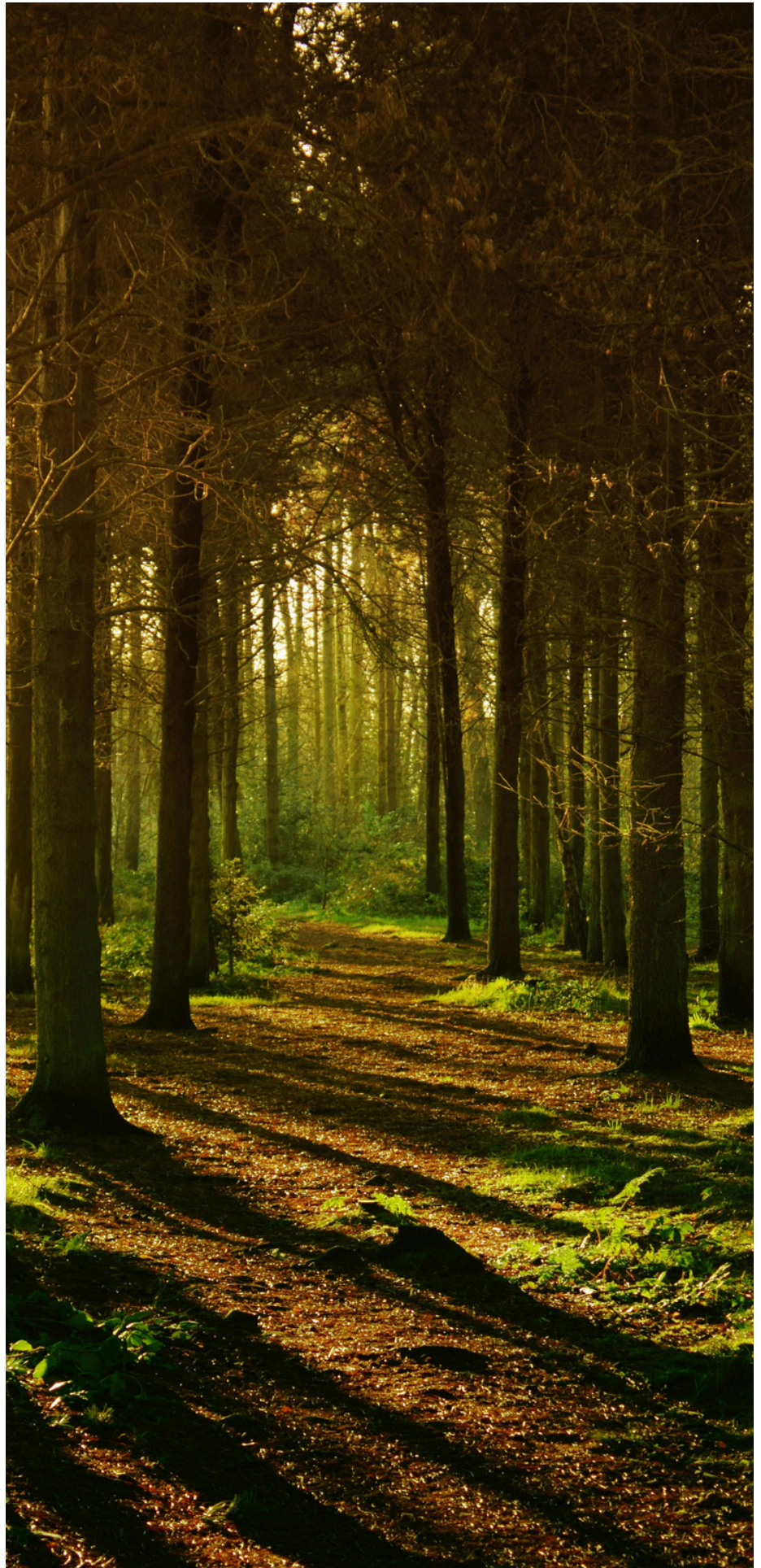


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From Occult to Tourism

While its fame is built on tales of black magic, Mayong's mystical traditions have evolved. Today, practitioners, known as "Bez" or "Oja," primarily use a combination of mantras, rituals, and herbal remedies for traditional healing rather than harmful spells. While the younger generations may not practice these arts, older villagers still share captivating anecdotes from the ancient eras, including stories of a missing child and a haunted temple. The village's unique heritage has transformed it into a popular tourist destination. The Mayong Central Museum and Emporium showcases artifacts, ancient manuscripts, and tools related to the practice of black magic and traditional healing. The area is also home to archaeological sites with ancient stone inscriptions and the ruins of old temples, offering a glimpse into its rich history. For those interested in nature, the nearby Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary is a major draw, famous for its population of one-horned rhinoceros. Other attractions include Kachasila Hill and the Deosal Siva Temple. Despite a more modern outlook, the legend of Mayong and its magical past continues to draw curious visitors, proving that a compelling tale, whether entirely true or not, can sustain a vibrant cultural identity.



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