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The Last Home in *Foja*

Poetry collection by **DZIKRY EL KHUDI**

Illustrated by **SAWSAN LATIFA**

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The Last Home in Foja

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Message from the Head of The Center for Book Affair

Hello, bright and cheerful Indonesian children!

You all love reading, right? Here are some interesting and exciting books for you to enjoy. Books with a variety of stories.

All of them are complemented by stunning illustrations.

Choose books that spark the joy of reading. One of them is the book you have in your hands. Let's invite your friends and parents to read together! I hope you will love reading even more.

My children, keep reading! Reading can soften your heart while also increasing your insight and creativity.

Happy reading!

Jakarta, September 2024

**Head of the Center for Book Affairs,
Supriyatno**

Foreword

Praise to the Lord, after quite some time, I have arrived at this point, where I have had the opportunity to publish a poetry collection. The ***Last Home in Foja*** is my first poetry collection.

The poems in this book tell stories about Papua, especially about the natural environment, local cuisine, and the culture that is inherent to the Papua community. Within these traditions and cultures, various local wisdom values have been passed down from the ancestors and continue to be practiced today.

I hope the presence of ***The Last Home in Foja*** can serve as a reminder to readers that Papua's natural environment should be preserved. Papua's nature, like a piece of heaven on earth, deserves our deeper attention and concrete steps to preserve it. All parties must actively engage in defending Papua's forest, one of the world's last frontiers against climate change.

Jayapura, September 12nd 2024
Author

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Yuginopa

A span of clear mirror
in the cloud
where the noso duck swam

the male bowerbird
built the nest
alluring the female
on the garden's floor

The traces of the angel were left behind
in Lince's dark eyes
when the edelweiss bloomed
on her lips
the sign of love
to Yuginopa

The cold and dew are linked
the eternal snow formed

Yuginopa

then called Habbema



The Snow Mountain Quail

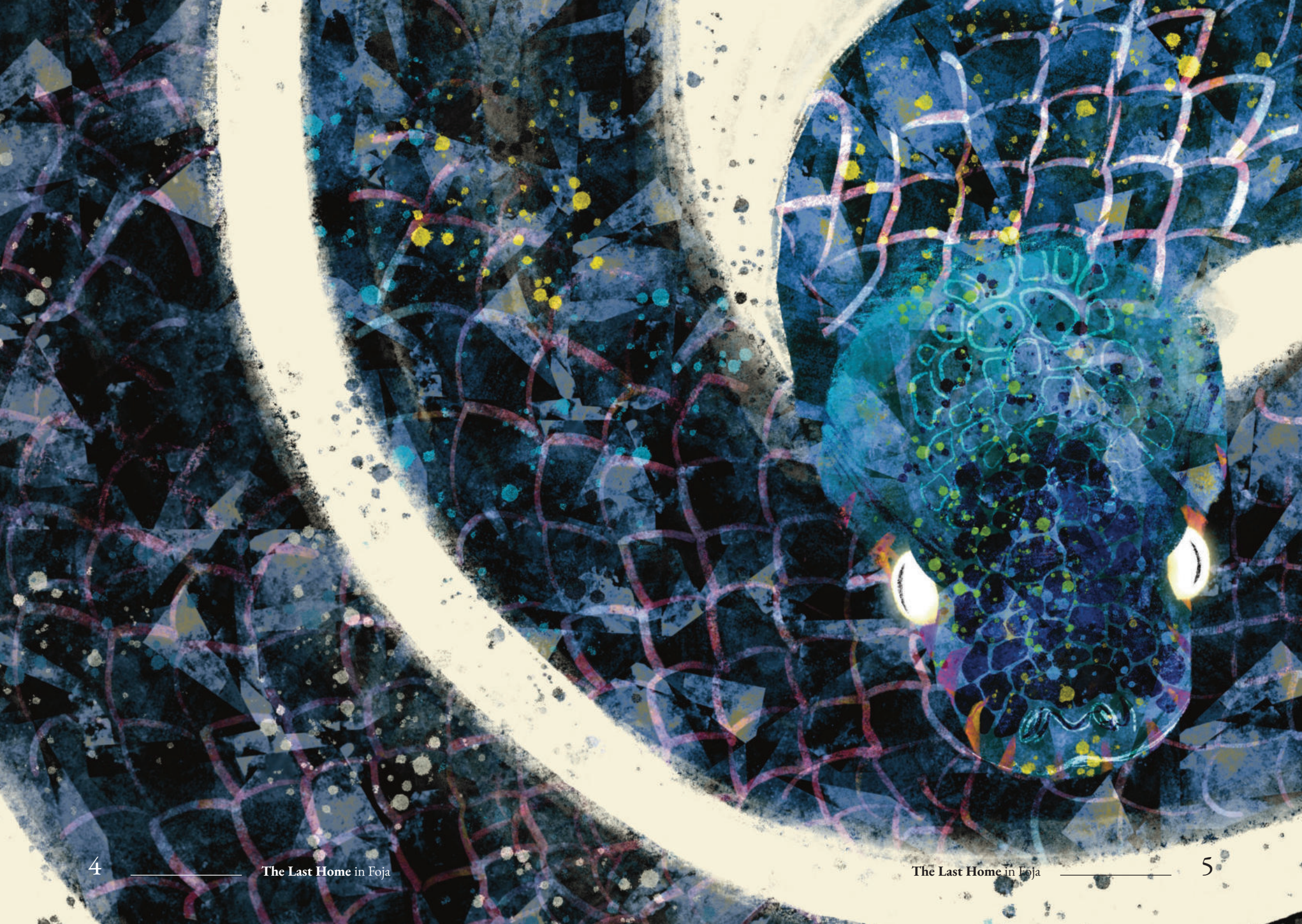
Lince picked up the restlessness
white and black
plastic garbage
on the village roadside
threw it
to the fire pit

The grey smoke
spread the residue reek
inhaled by the snow mountain quail
when harvesting chrysanthemum's nectar
on the yard corner

The still night

the snow mountain quail
curled up
in the nest
The heartbeat
fluttered

Unsure about tomorrow, could them
Welcoming the sun's arrival



Boeleni

A trail of footprints rolled
cut across the wilderness

the ancient trees and the vines
dark greens
with moss

Lince chanted a myth
so that Boeleni slept
deep
procreated
bred

uncursed
by extinction

The Kurulu Flower

Blue and fog
in the stillness

petrified

The hill layers sloped
and high

The smoke soared
from the honai's roof
under the silence
of the cassowary tree

Lince braided her hair
pinned the kurulu flower
purple and pink

bloomed

from the entire longing



Nothofagus

Lince looked up
offering the prayer
in the shadows

the ancient trees
the meadow's edge
savannah

Please be immortal

nothofagus

the remnant of Adam and Eve





The May Grass

In the fifth month of the calendar
Lince weaved a memory
on the edge of the dusk

about the May grass
owasi-wasika

with the purple
red spread

The Valley Girls

The valley girls
with the long legs
wore crowns
foliage towered

golden green scattered
caressed by the leading wind
full of respect solemn comprehending
the ancestral teaching

the ancient fern in the garden
go through the long time
from the Silurian era until now

Lince glorified it
under guard





Like a Tundra

Like a tundra
it did not sprout the trees

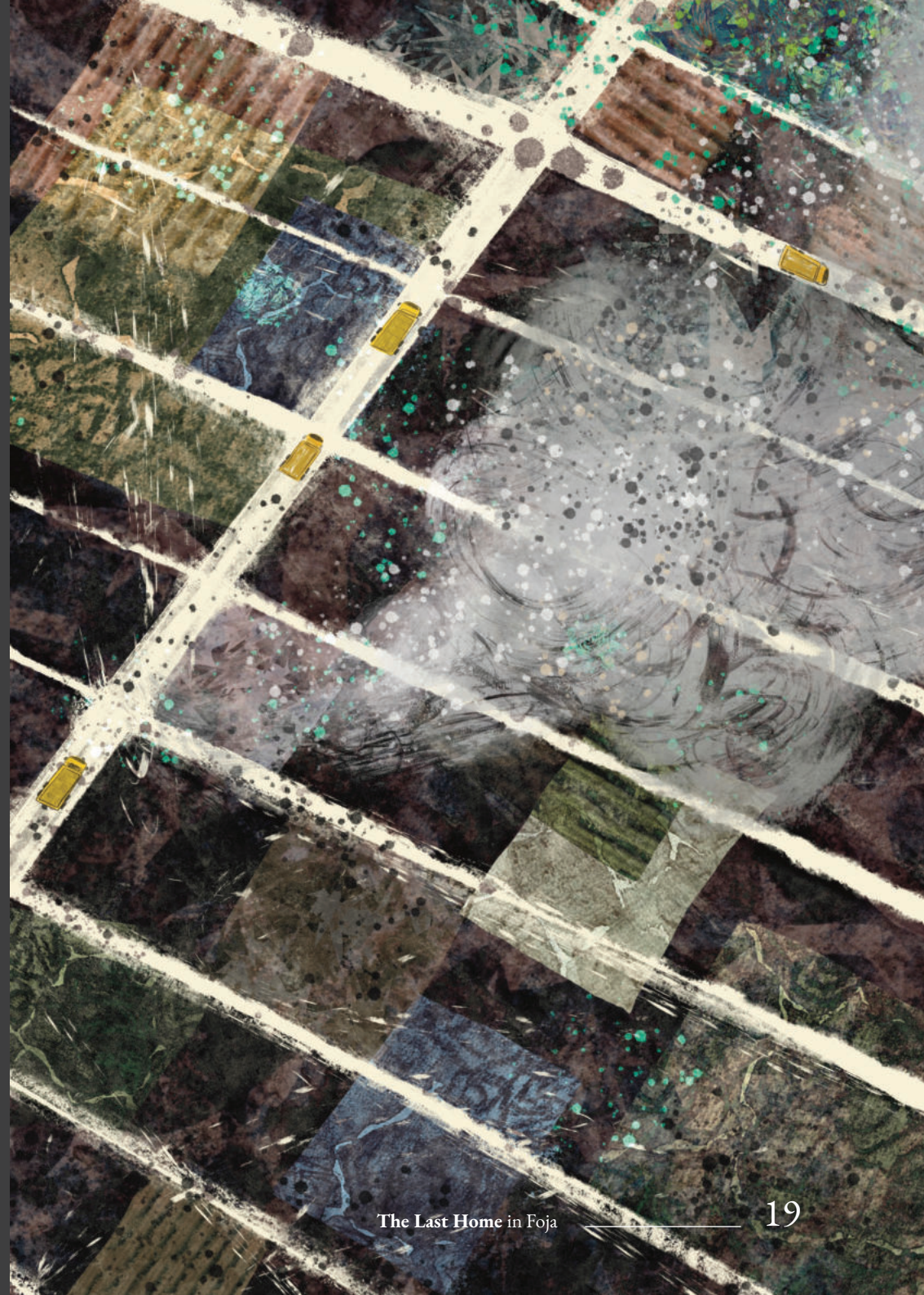
a wounded soul
without hope

Spread of tussock alpine grass

getting further

on the cliff dangling
steep and yellowing

Snow lost the body
melted seared by yearning
to the ancient air
Lince reminisced about the sina tree



In a Garden

Orange moss
wrapped the trees
like restless souls
embracing memories

Lince searched for
the birthdates of all the young sina
when their parents
had become pieces of wood

The journey

is very long

from Gondwana

to Barisan Sudirman

There are still little sina in the garden
heirs to all the stories of civilization

Somatua

The Earth was once burning
then frozen

staghorn fern protruding
from beneath the snow

When the plates of time
collided

Somatua was left behind
at the equator
weaving a long story
with the Ugimba people

Those stories of the past
crowded the memory
Lince held onto the last piece of ice
not wanting to lose



Meren Valley

Steep cliffs
limestone
black moss
Lince questions eternity

Valley of Lakes
flooded with blue water
holding the sky
at an unreachable base

A clump of smiles
blooming
on old moraines
is tetramolopium
the most loyal guardian of the kerangas

Amaracarpus

Lince pondered
how each object
got its name
like the humble Amaracarpus

Small insects loved to play
on the lanceolate branches
White flowers bloomed
The wind sang a song

In the soot of the night
Amaracarpus
hummed

alone

Hardly anyone had engraved it in their
memory
God created it with a purpose





Hipere

Planting hipere
is like writing poetry
in the wilderness of mama's heart

its vastness is limitless

Since the ice melted
the Peak of Mandala protruded
from the ocean floor
hipere has been cared for
with love

It was created in the second era
after humans
fire
and pigs

that's what our ancestors said
Lince planted it in memory



In the Baliem Valley

Lince dangles a noken on her head
a huddled piglet in there
curled
dejected
orphaned
as a dowry

Lince cares for it
while cultivating life
in the hipere fields
on customary land
Rainbows extend blessings and plagues

Owasi-wasika surround the valley

The gale sings a prayer of sleep
For a moment Lince closes her eyes

The universe is intertwined
Eternal snow melts with long drought

The spirit of the Baliem Valley is
a woman
hidden in the cavities of tradition

Lince wants to emerge
from the labyrinth of ancestral values







Boisterous

Aru lory
on sago flower
humming



Kumbili

Tendrils extend
sprouting leaves of love
stemming the fragrant aroma
of the kumbili sap

As white as a cloud
blooming at the banquet
of the Kanume tribe
glorifying the arawarai

Kumbili holds a meeting
recording
all customary agreements

Lince takes it home
after the kumbili is distributed



Rumbia Womb

The wind and branches
sing ehabla
experiencing the remaining sago grove
at the edge of Ifale Village

Lince flakes off the pith
from the revered trunk
squeezing out crumbs
scavenging
the essence of life

the sago settles

Several weeks later
mushrooms grow
followed by swarms of plump white larvae
their turn to offer nutrition and deliciousness

Rumbia Womb
truly a long poem
magical and romantic

Lince doesn't want to lose
the gift of love from God and nature





Khayi

Lince has the world
in the form of an explanation
of the ancestors' words
about khayi

women's boats
made of pulai wood

The floor is love
wider than ifaa

men's boats
can only carry themselves

The universe takes Lince
to socialize
with Lake Sentani
the incarnation of nirvana

Tradition allows her to paddle
after she has become adept at swimming

Thus the Ayapo people
are choosing the women
of harmony maintaining
travelling to food cherishing
while raising offspring

together with khayi across
the flower of life

Yungmokho

As white as Lince's love
to ancestors
teach
to make snacks

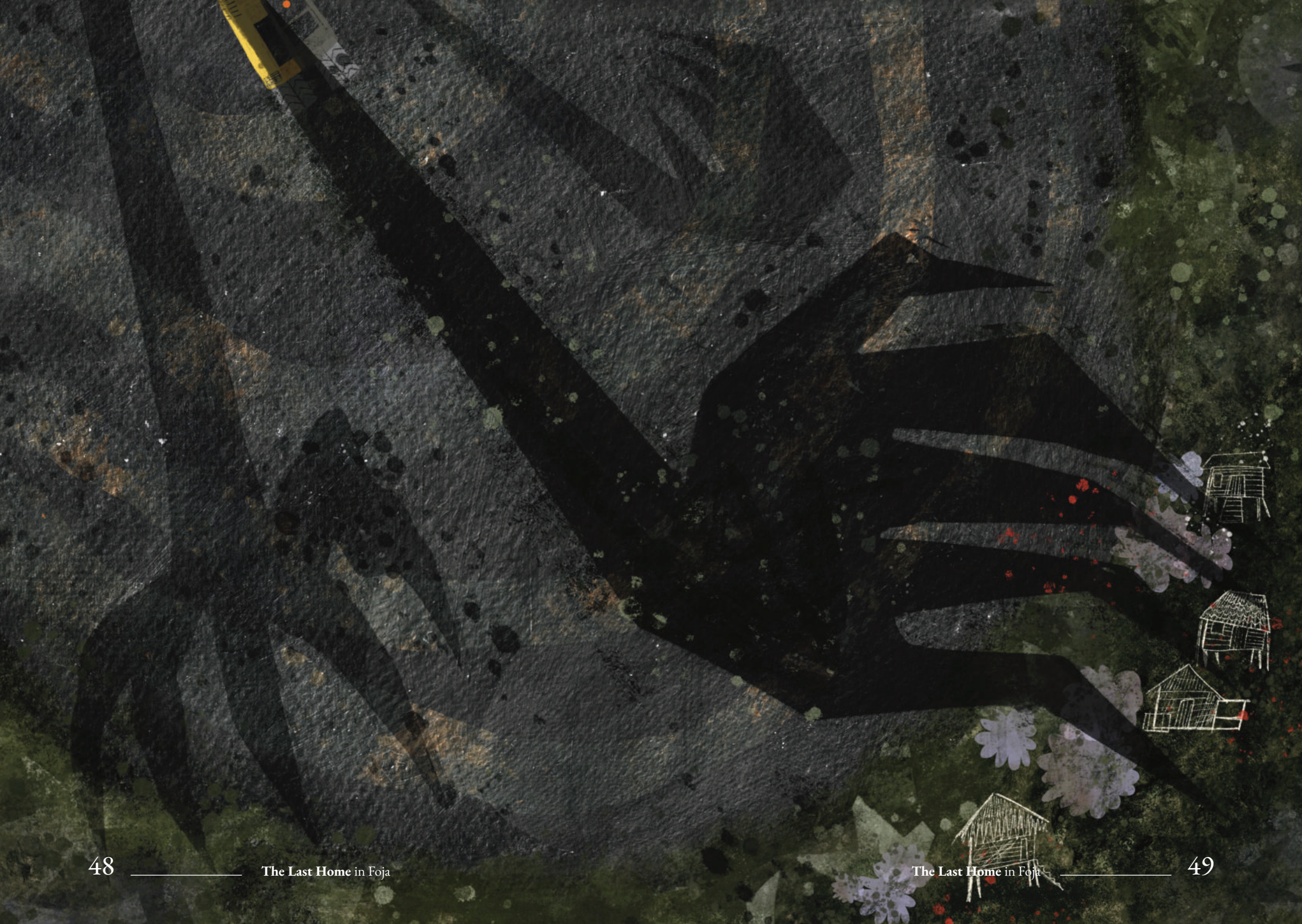
is bud
from the stem of life

When the Sentani people
chopping sago
the shoot
similar to a blessing to cultivate
become a dish
as gentle as affection
as delicious as joy

combined with salt
milk powder
coconut
Lince turned on
taste

quiet and solemn

like a sago grove
must be guarded







Manggali

Like fingers
stretched out
manggali grows green

leaves
on the edge of the sago grove
the best place
to plant longing

After the sago grove
is half remained
Lince inherits
another piece of knowledge

Sentani women
drinking manggali water
cleanses the womb
after giving birth

A Long Legacy

A clump of purple ground orchids
is Lince's smile
blooming

all season long
in Grime Valley

Nothing escapes
the reach of the rain
all kinds of seeds

crack

turning into wilderness

Flocks of birds-of-paradise
free to choose
their own trees

Blyth's hornbill
lorikeet
crowned pigeon
cassowary
busy guarding
the eggs which will hatch
soon

Rows of areca nuts
present dense bunches

betel planted
thousands of times

lime reddens
the bonds of brotherhood

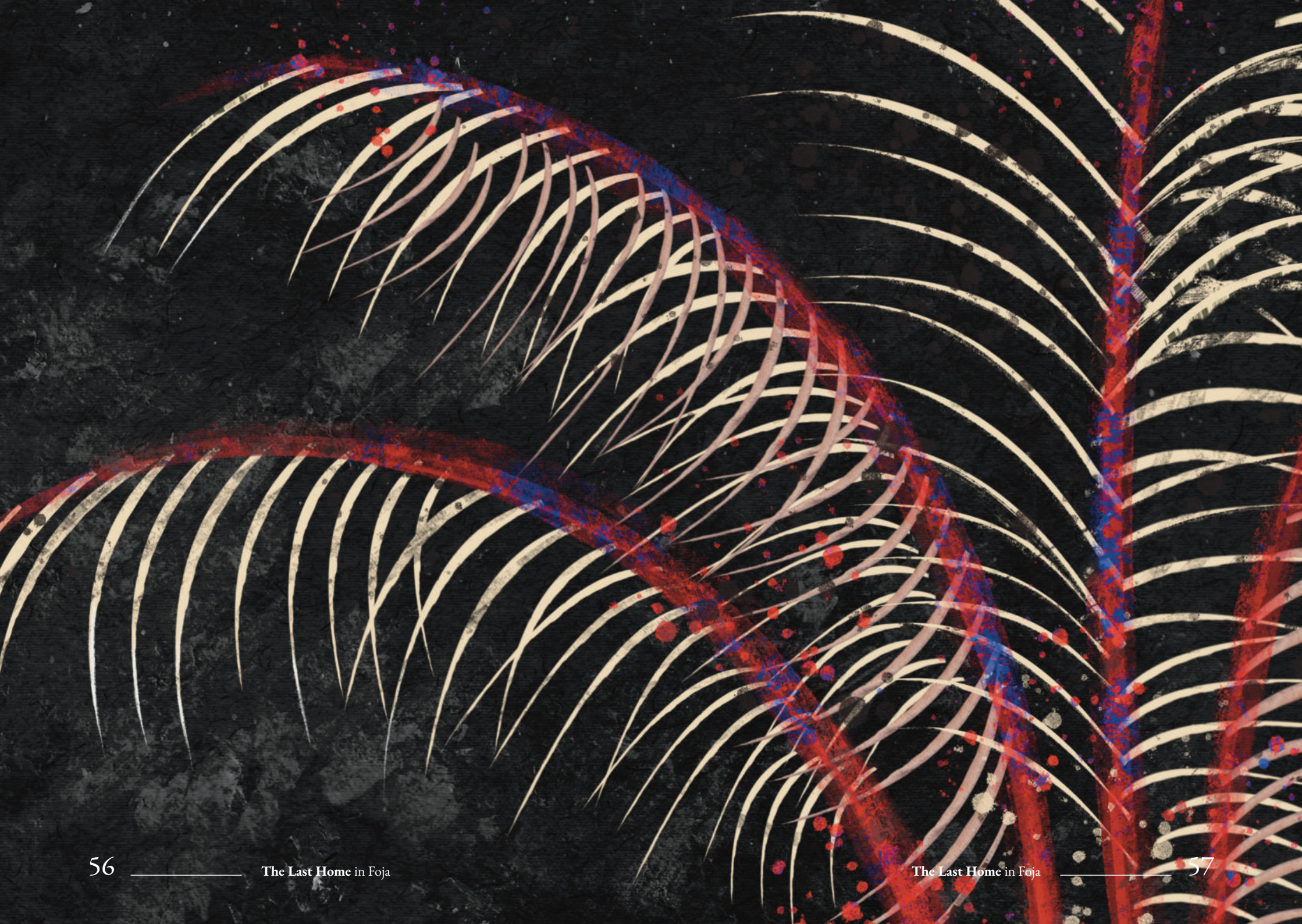
In the fragrance of grass sap
all aromas waft
from the customary forest

Lince records a long legacy
the seeds of the ancestors' thoughts

Lips murmur repeatedly

Temung tey, temung frip

Take enough for today
Leave more for tomorrow



Rombebai

A lake hidden
far away at the edge of the mangrove
forest

every branch
is covered with flowers of longing
in the curves
of the Mamberamo River

The blue water is Lince's soul
a sanctuary for millions of creatures

weaving tranquility
the universe finds harmony

A flock of herons
cormorants
great white egrets
picus
exchanging poetry
while caressing
lotus flowers

A pair of hornbills
composing a love song
sung to the
wind
clouds
rain
clumps of orchids

bloom

Fish mate merrily
in the algae garden
breeding
until one day
they become food

In the Rombebai universe
Lince records the words
in the language of his ancestors
the lake is named sawani



The Last Home in Foja

Hundreds of billions of years
the universe's age
Foja seems to have just begun
created from the curves of
rivers
 lakes
 valleys
 forests
 mountains

Silent and solemn
chanting love

On Earth's timeline
from the Archean
to the present Alluvium
Foja is like a recess in the
heart
 deep
 ethereal
 far away
 remote

even challenging to reach
by oneself

Just Foja
the home of the golden-mantled tree kangaroos
a place of millions of creatures
breed
 give birth
 lay eggs
 creeping
 flap

Long live
Foja became a sanctuary



The Mangrove's Hum

Lince anchors tendrils of dreams
in centuries of air
tancang tree roots
Rhizophora
surrounded by the ocean

Floating wilderness

somasis hidden
Scylla and bia-bia families
continuing history

Api-api
sparkling iron orchids

Collared imperial pigeon
kissing the sun

From the warmth of the pidada cavity
a pair of Blyth's hornbills peeks at the
sunset

Inambuja

At the meeting between Tariku and
Taritatu
at Cape Narwaku
a love story was born
giving birth to Inambuja





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Glosarium

A

Alpine tussock grass: One of the plants in the Jayawijaya Mountains grows at an altitude of around 4,000 meters above sea level or higher. When the snow melts, this grass grows at higher elevations.

Amaracarpus: A shrub that grows abundantly in the subalpine shrub vegetation of the Jayawijaya Mountains. There aren't many reviews about this shrub, as if it were a forgotten plant.

Ancient ferns (*Cyathea sp.*): plants that have lived since the Silurian Period, approximately 443.4–419.2 million years ago. These ancient ferns grow abundantly in the Jayawijaya Mountains at an altitude of roughly 3,200 meters above sea level, around Lake Habbema. The rows of trees are lovely and captivating.

Arawarai: Traditional ceremony of gathering food ingredients for deliberation among the Kanume tribe in Merauke Regency, South Papua Province.

Aru lory (*Chalcopsitta scintillata*): A bird species found throughout New Guinea and the Aru Islands. They live in savannas, forests, swamps, mangroves, plantations, and sago groves. The Aru Lory is a protected species under Regulation of the Minister of Environment and Forestry Number: P.106/MENLHK/SETJEN/KUM.1/12/2018.

B

Bia: The term refers to the type of shellfish that Papuans generally consume.

Boeleni (*Simalia boeleni*):

A species of python endemic to Papua, diurnal (active during the day), inhabiting the highlands of 1,000-2,600 meters above sea level. Locally known as the moon python or Boelen's python, it is prized for its rarity and beautiful colouration.

C

Cassowary tree (*Casuarina sp.*): One of the typical trees of Jayawijaya Regency. Its needle-like leaves are thought to resemble the feathers of a cassowary.

Collared imperial pigeon and Blyth's hornbill: The collared imperial pigeon (*Ducula mullerii*) and the Blyth's hornbill (*Rhyticeros plicatus*) are bird species that can be found in the mangrove ecosystem or mangrove forests of the Mamberamo Foja Wildlife Sanctuary. They can also be found in other places in Papua.

E

Ehabla: A joyful oral poem of the Sentani people of Jayapura Regency, Papua, is sung during traditional ceremonies, such as the coronation of tribal chiefs, the opening of gardens, and so on.

F

Foja: The mountain range in Mamberamo, Papua. The Foja Mountains, which are a wildlife conservation area, were once considered the most remote and inaccessible place on earth.

H

Hipere: The name for sweet potatoes among the people of the Baliem Valley, Papua. Hipere is their primary source of carbohydrates. Local wisdom in the Baliem Valley holds that hipere was created second on earth after the first creations, namely humans, fire, and pigs. Archaeological records indicate that agriculture in the Baliem Valley has been systematically practiced since around 6,000 years ago, contemporaneous with early agricultural cultures in Latin America, Egypt, and China.

I

Ifaa: A traditional boat specifically for men in the Ayapo Village community, Sentani District, Jayapura Regency, Papua.

Inambuja: A freshwater spring surrounded by salt water in Yoke Village, Mamberamo Ilir District, Mamberamo Raya Regency, Papua Province. Yoke Village is located on the banks of the Mamberamo River. The Inambuja Spring was discovered and used by Japanese soldiers during World War II. The Yoke community believes the Inambuja Spring can cure various diseases.

Iron orchids or laxly flowered dendrobium (*Dendrobium violaceolavens*):

This orchid species is native to Papua and can be found in the Mamberamo Foja Wildlife Sanctuary and the Grime Valley.

K

Kerangas: The heath lands, forests that have extreme, nutrient-poor terrain, such as moraines.

Alpine heath lands are found at an altitude of around 4,000 meters above sea level in the Jayawijaya Mountains.

Khayi: A boat designed explicitly for women, broader and longer than the ifaa (men's ship). Women around Lake Sentani, especially in Ayapo Village, use the khayi as a means of transportation, transporting food, and so on.

Kumbili (*Dioscorea esculenta L.*): A type of tuber traditionally cultivated and passed down through generations by the Kanume people in Merauke, South Papua. In other areas, kumbili is called gembili or different names. Kumbili has spiritual significance when the Kanume people gather it along with other crops during the traditional Arawarai ceremony. After the ceremony, the kumbili and the collected crops are distributed to all attendees to take home.

Kurulu flower (*Xerochrysum bracteatum*): A type of paper flower that grows abundantly in the Kurulu District, Jayawijaya Regency, Papua Highlands, is one of the distinctive features of this region. The flowers last for years after being picked, hence the name “eternal flower.”

M
Manggali (*Abelmoschus manihot*): A term in the Central Sentani language of Jayapura Regency for the gedi plant, which is usually processed as a vegetable. Sentani women drink boiled mangali water to cleanse the uterus after childbirth.

Meren Valley: Also known as the Valley of Lakes, it is located in the Jayawijaya Mountains, at an altitude of approximately 4,000 meters above sea level.

Morain: The accumulation of debris, including rocks, gravel, sand, and other materials, occurs in the area of a former glacier.

N
Noken: A traditional bag that holds spiritual value among the Baliem Valley community. They have a tradition of raising piglets like their own children, placing them in a noken. This treatment is especially reserved for piglets that have been separated from their mothers, such as when the mother is used as a dowry.

Noso duck (*Anas waigiensis*): One of the wildlife inhabitants of Lake Habbema.

Nothofagus: A tree species found in the Jayawijaya Mountains, Papua. This tree has existed since the glacial period.

O
Owasi-wasika: The local name is “May grass,” from the Baliem Valley language. May grass is a type of grass with reddish-purple flowers that bloom simultaneously in May every year.

R
Rombebai: The name of a beautiful lake in the Mamberamo Foja Wildlife Reserve, Papua. In the local language of the Kapeso Village community, the lake is called Sawani.

S
Scylla: Mud crabs, a famous and unique food ingredient from Mamberamo Foja.

Sina (*Phyllocladus hypophyllum*): An ancient plant from the Gondwana continent, including subalpine vegetation. Its branches are often covered with orange moss. Its presence in the Jayawijaya Mountains (Sudirman Range) is becoming increasingly rare due to illegal logging.

Snowy mountain quail (*Anurophasis monorthonyx*): an endemic species of Papua that lives at altitudes of 3,200-3,800 meters above sea level, also known as the Jayawijaya quail.

Somasi (*Lutjanus goldiei*): A type of fish, also known as Papuan black bass, commonly consumed and sold by the people of Mamberamo.

Somatua: The Ugimba people’s name for the highest snow-capped peak in the Jayawijaya Mountains, which holds spiritual and sacred value for them.

Staghorn fern (*Platycerium bifurcatum*): Epiphytic plants, which attach themselves to rocks or trees, have existed since the Carboniferous Period (350 million years ago).

T
Tancang (*Bruguiera gymnorhiza*), **loop-root mangrove** (*Rhizophora mucronata*), **api-api** (*Avicennia sp.*), and **white pidada** (*Sonneratia alba*): The main types of mangroves found in the mangrove ecosystem of the Mamberamo Foja Wildlife Sanctuary.

Tariku and Taritatu: The names of two major rivers in Mamberamo, Papua. The Tariku River flows from west to east, while the Taritatu River flows from east to west. The two converge at Tanjung Narwaku, creating the Mamberamo River, which continues to flow and empties into the Pacific Ocean.

Temung tey, temung frip: The values of community wisdom in Grime Valley, Jayapura Regency, Papua, which embrace nature conservation and sustainable use, namely taking just enough for today and leaving more for tomorrow.

Tetramolopium: A heath-dwelling shrub in the Jayawijaya Mountains, bearing beautiful, daisy-like flowers.

Tundra: An area characterized by the absence of trees due to low temperatures. Alpine tundra is found in mountains around the world, including the Jayawijaya Mountains in Papua.

U

Ugimba: A village in the Jayawijaya Mountains highlands, Papua.

Y

Yuginopa: A lake in the Jayawijaya Mountains. After the Puncak Trikora expedition in 1909, the lake was named Habbema after the Dutch officer who accompanied the expedition.

Yungmokho: A term for sago stem shoots (pith). The colour is white and the texture is soft when processed.

The Book Activists



AUTHOR

Dzikry el Khudi

The Javanese writer has lived in Papua since late 2009.

Up until this poetry collection was written, Dzikry had written various works about Papua. His first book about Papua was an ethnographic novel titled *"White Love in the Land of Papua,"* which explores the philosophy of "one stove, three stones," which implies "I, you, and he are brothers," and also points to the harmony of customs, religion, and government. This novel was published by Noura Books in Jakarta in 2014.

Meanwhile, Dzikry's novel, *"The Guardians of Youtefa Bay,"* received the title of Outstanding Indonesian Literary Work from the National Education Standards Agency (BSNP) in 2019. Besides writing literary works and fiction, Dzikry has also written non-fiction books on the theme of Papuan nature conservation. Judging by his writing track record, Dzikry is a writer who enjoys themes of Papuan nature and ethnography. A glimpse into Dzikry's life can be seen on his Instagram account @dzikry.el_khudi.



ILLUSTRATOR

Sawsan Latifa

Sawsan is an illustrator who occasionally writes, occasionally watches whale documentaries, and often daydreams. Her experimental work can be seen on Instagram @sawsandrawthis.



COPY EDITOR

M. Aan Mansyur

M. Aan Mansyur is a writer, editor, and translator with a passion for photography.

He lives in Maros, South Sulawesi, and works as the director of the Makassar International Writers Festival. Some of his poetry books include: *"Watching Fire Work"* (2015), *"There Is No New York Today"* (2016), *"The Right Time to Forget Time"* (2021), and *"Still What Was"* (2023). His poetry book, *"Why Wounds Are Not Knives"* (2020), won the 2021 Kusala Sastra Khatulistiwa Award and the 2021 Literary Award.



COPY EDITOR

Berthin Sappang

Commonly known as Berthin, she has been an employee at the Center of Book Affairs, Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education, since March 2021. During her time at the Center of Book Affairs, she has helped edit several textbooks and non-textbooks. Reading, writing, and visiting museums and historical sites are her passions. Some of her short writings can be read on her Instagram account @sappangberthin.



ART DIRECTOR

Dessy Rachma W.

Dessy is an illustrator, intermedia artist, and art college instructor who aspires to become a fine arts professor. She loves history books and biographies, and spends a lot of time exploring the meaning of works of art often described as strange.

Her varied schedule has attracted quite a few people to her daily life as a teacher at an art college. She also utilizes her Instagram account (@dessyrachms) to share her knowledge of fine arts. Let's be friends with Dessy!



CONTENT REVIEWER

Chandra Irwanto
Lumban Gaol

Familiarly known as Cecen, he is a Junior Expert Forestry Extension Officer at the Papua Natural Resources Conservation Center. Cecen is known for his critical thinking, but in the field, he is very friendly and smiles easily. During his relatively short service in Papua, Cecen has adopted the motto *"Nec laudibus nec timore,"* meaning "not hindered by obstacles or praise."



DESIGNER

M Harun Rosyid Ridlo

He is a visual designer and visual communication design instructor with a keen interest in information visualization and creative thinking. His enjoyment of the visual world can be seen on Instagram @harta_harun. He is also currently developing a campaign for wise food consumption through Instagram @bijak_makan.



TRANSLATOR

Maria M. Lubis

Maria M. Lubis is a freelance book translator with numerous translations from English to Indonesian. She has also written several children's books and written content for several museums in Indonesia. She is very fond of children's books and fantasy.



EDITOR

Eka Budiarti

Eka Budiarti is an English–Indonesian translator & editor based in Bekasi, West Java. Her journey with words began as a simple side project while she was working in the corporate world. But what started as a part-time pursuit soon grew into a true calling. In 2008, she decided to take a leap of faith, leaving her office job to become a full-time freelance translator.