



Mythology and folklore in the Carpathian Euroregion

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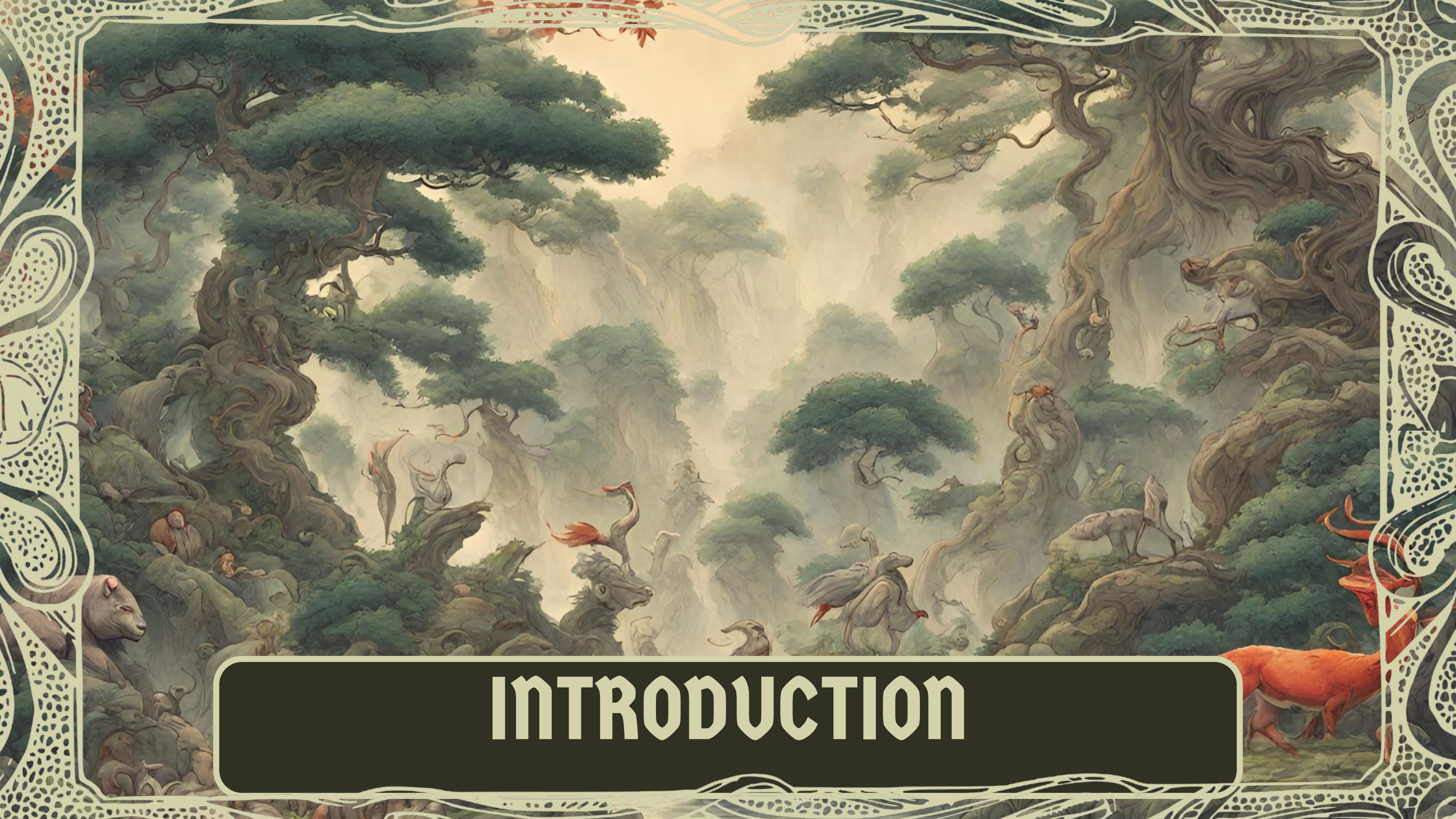
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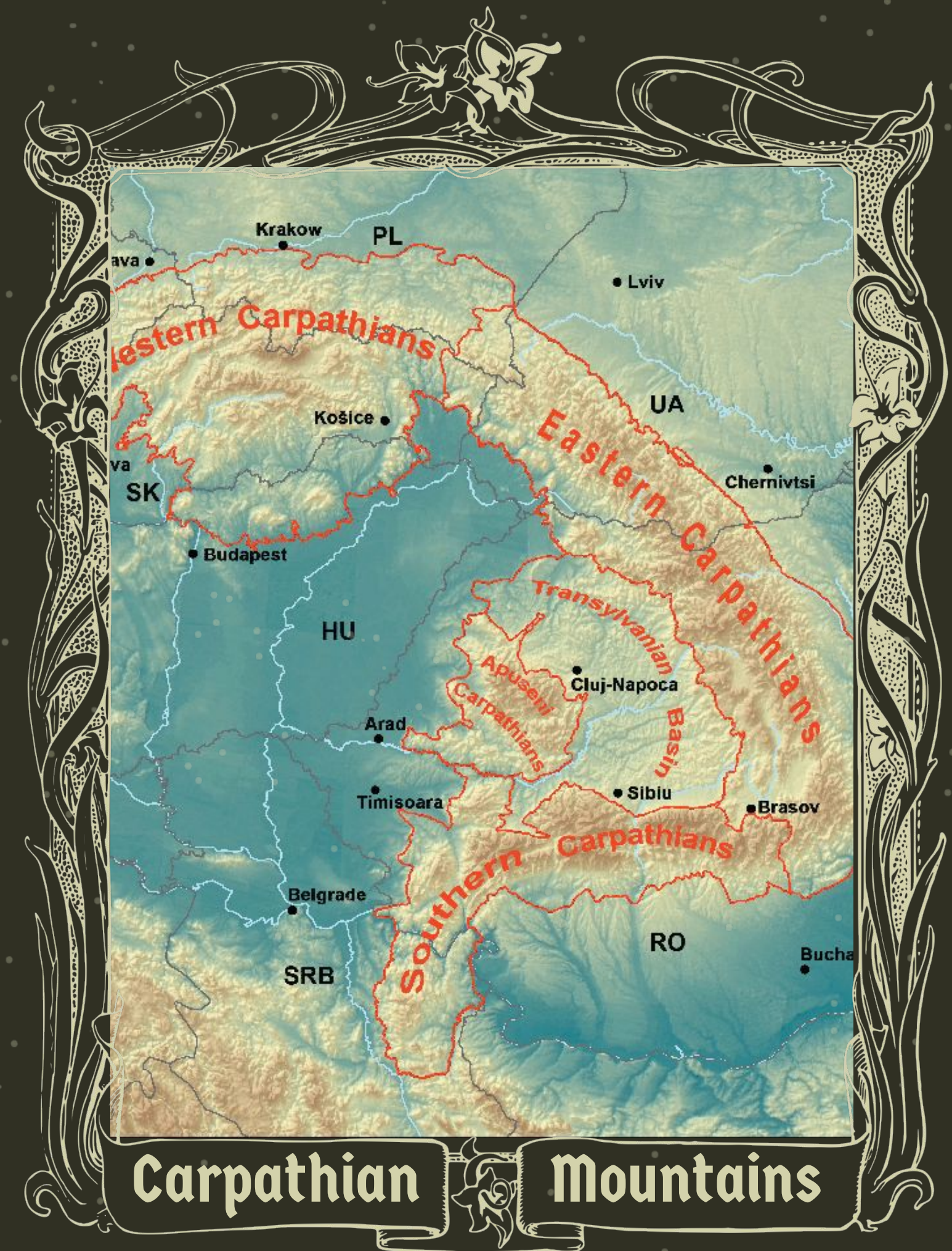


INTRODUCTION

Introduction

Myths and legends arise from humanity's curiosity about what lies beyond familiar boundaries, shaped by imagination, superstition, and the wish to explain the unknown. As part of folklore, they form a cultural legacy passed down through generations, giving each people a sense of identity.

The Carpathian Euroregion—Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, and Ukraine—has produced a rich body of legends inspired by its vast, enigmatic forests.



What are we going to talk about?

The spirits of this area are deeply tied to natural elements: forest beings like Muma Pădurii and Fata Pădurii, water spirits such as Știma Apelor, and wind-associated entities like the Iele, or Rusalii. More sinister figures, including Pricolicii and Strigoi, embody danger and misfortune.

Many of these creatures originate from tragic or premature deaths—unbaptized children, drownings, murders, hangings, or mysterious disappearances—events believed to disrupt the natural order set by the three Ursitoare (Ursitoarea, Soarta & Curmătoarea).





Pricolici

Pricolici & Strigoi



Strigoi

Spirits of nature



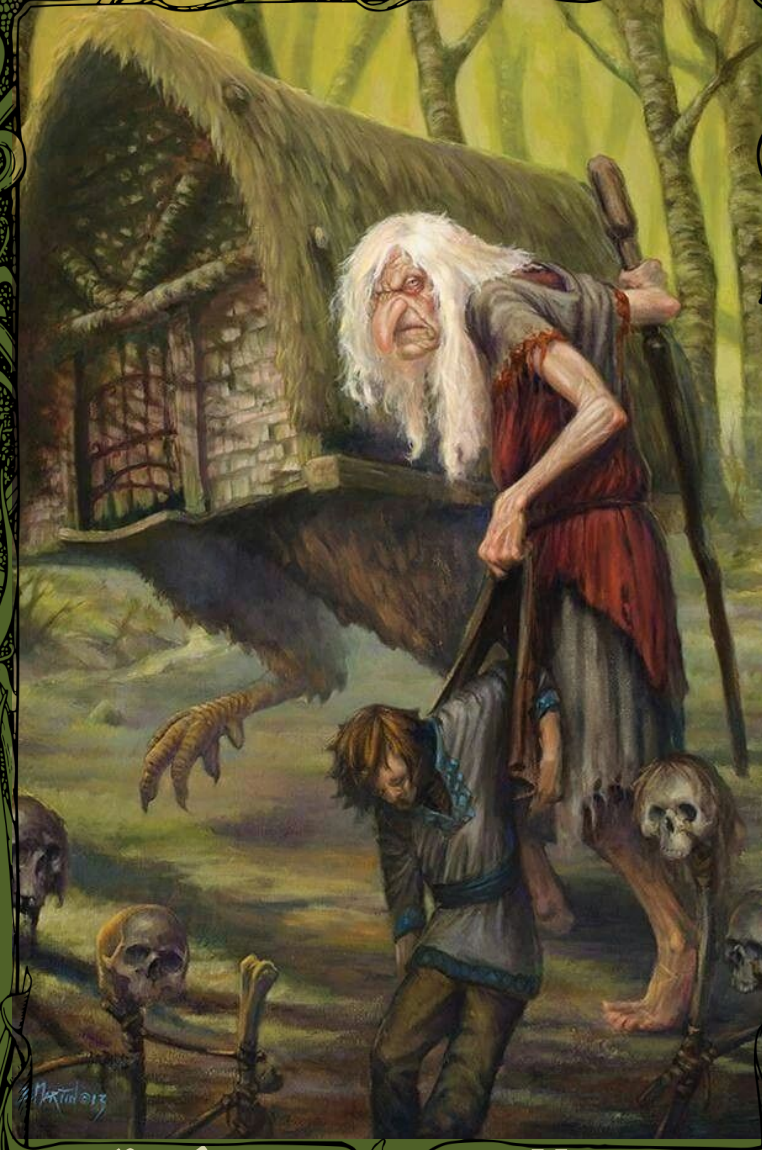
Muma

Pădurii



Fata

Pădurii



Baba

Yaga



Baba

Cioanța



Stima Apei

Spirits of water



Rusali

Spirits of wind



Mythology, today?



Music



Baba Yaga in

Bartok the magnificent (1999)





*Myths aren't fairy tales
or legends—they're an
honest attempt to
explain mysteries.*

— Jhon J. Geddes

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