



# mythology and folklore in the Carpathian Euroregion

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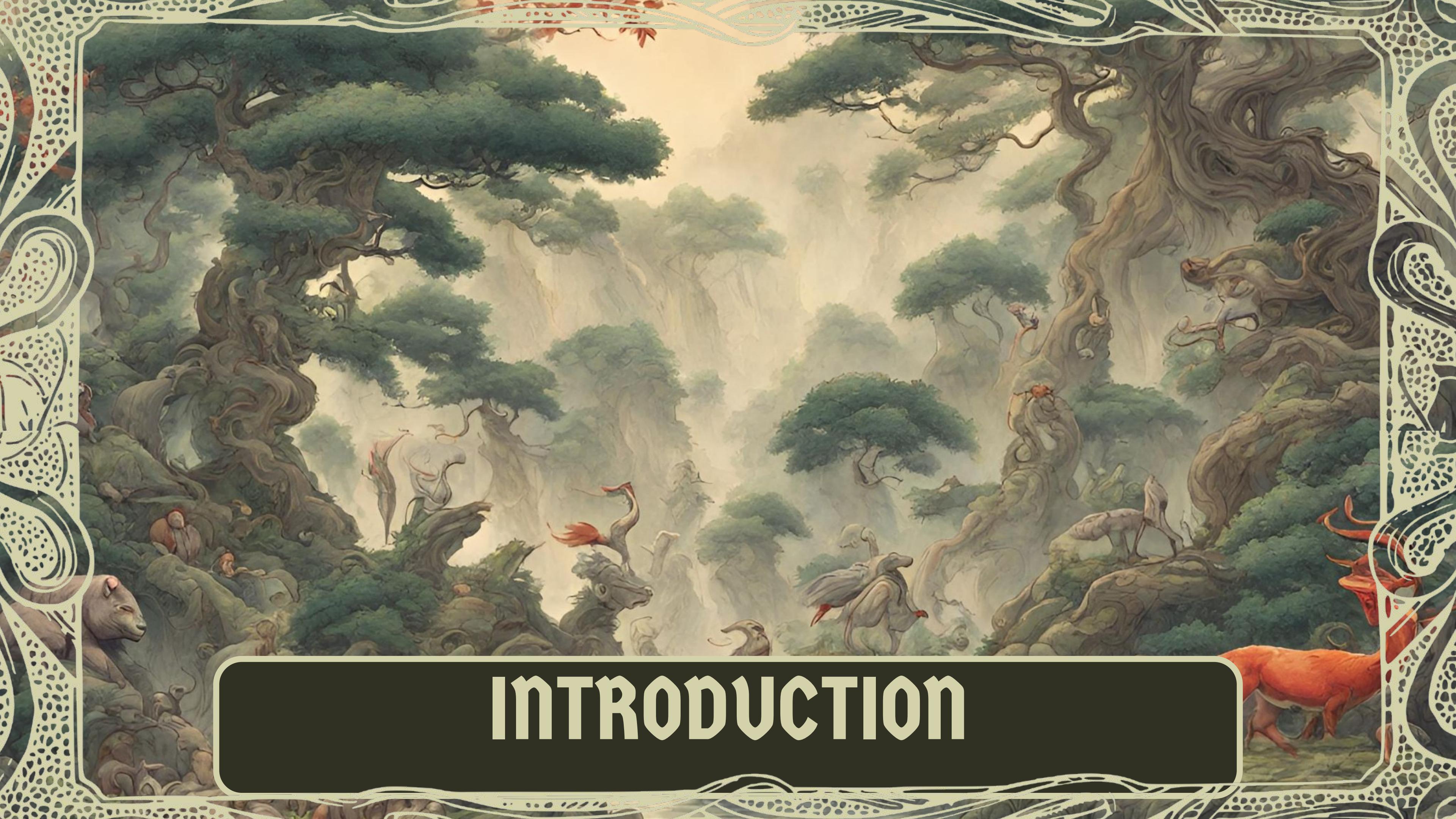
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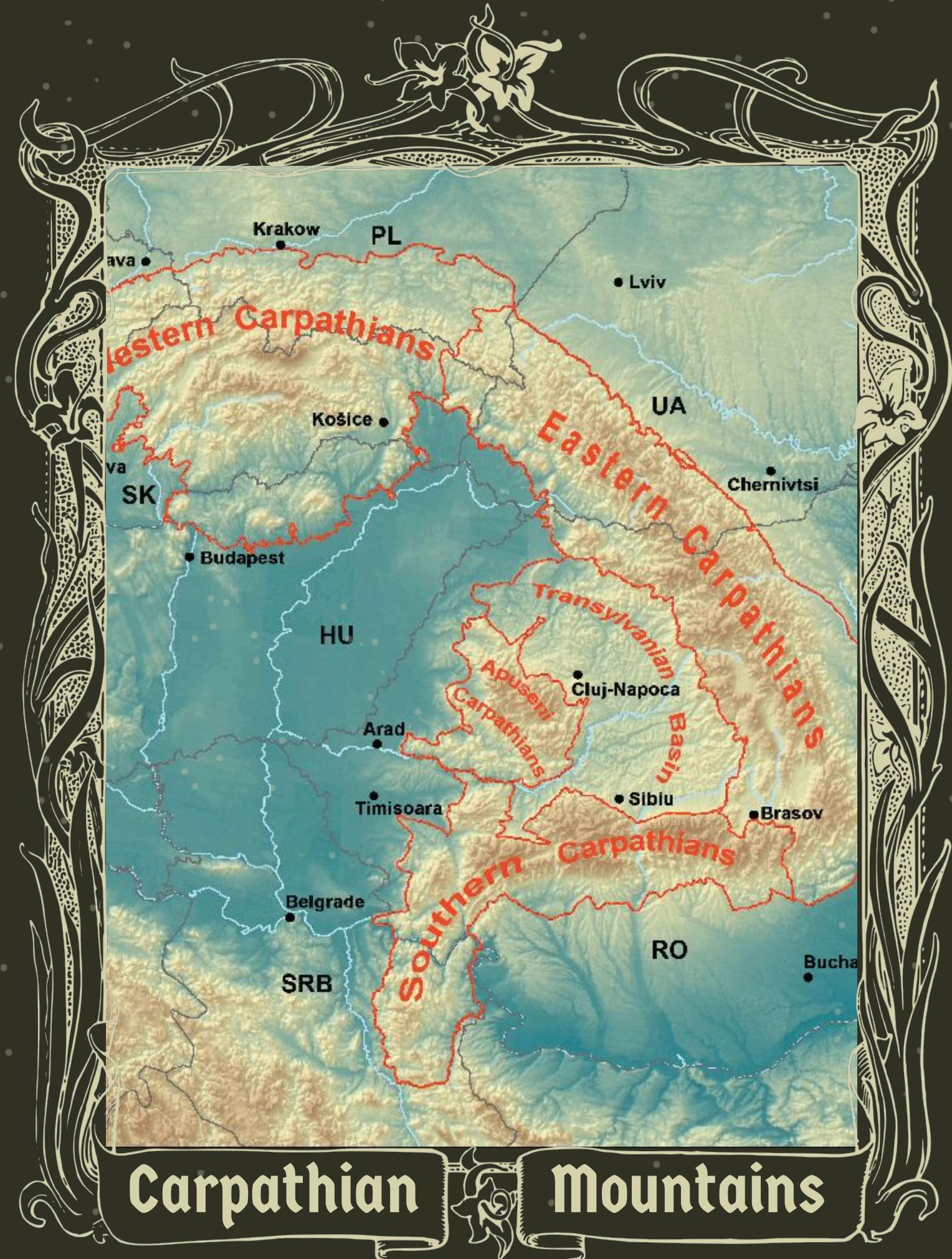


# INTRODUCTION

# 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.

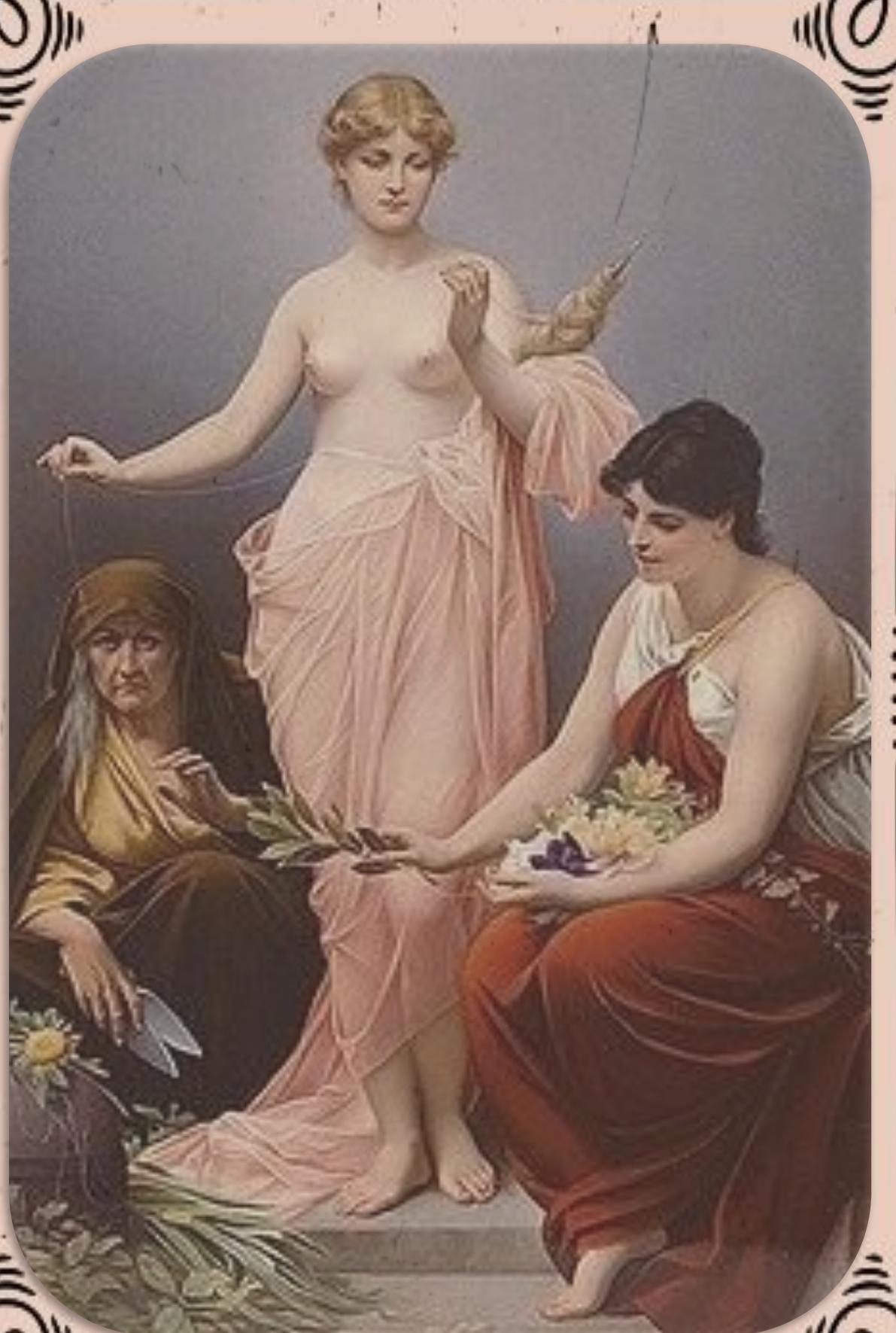
The Carpathian Euroregion—Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, and Ukraine—has produced a rich body of legends inspired by its vast, enigmatic forests.



# 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 Ştima Apelor, and wind-associated entities like the lele, 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).





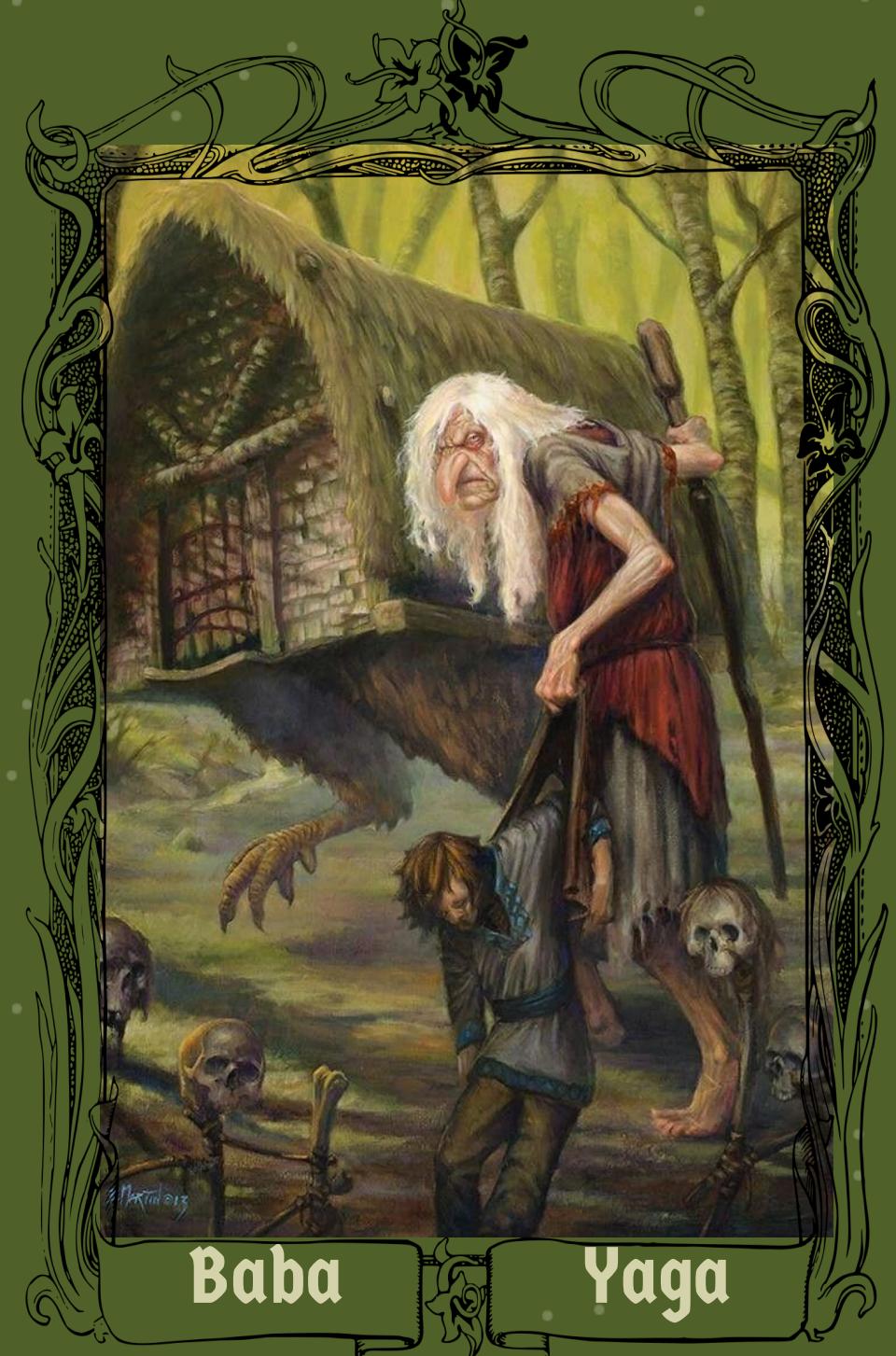
Pricolici

# Pricolici & Strigoi



Strigoi

# Spirits of nature



Mumoa

Padurii

Fata

Pădurii

Baba

Yaga

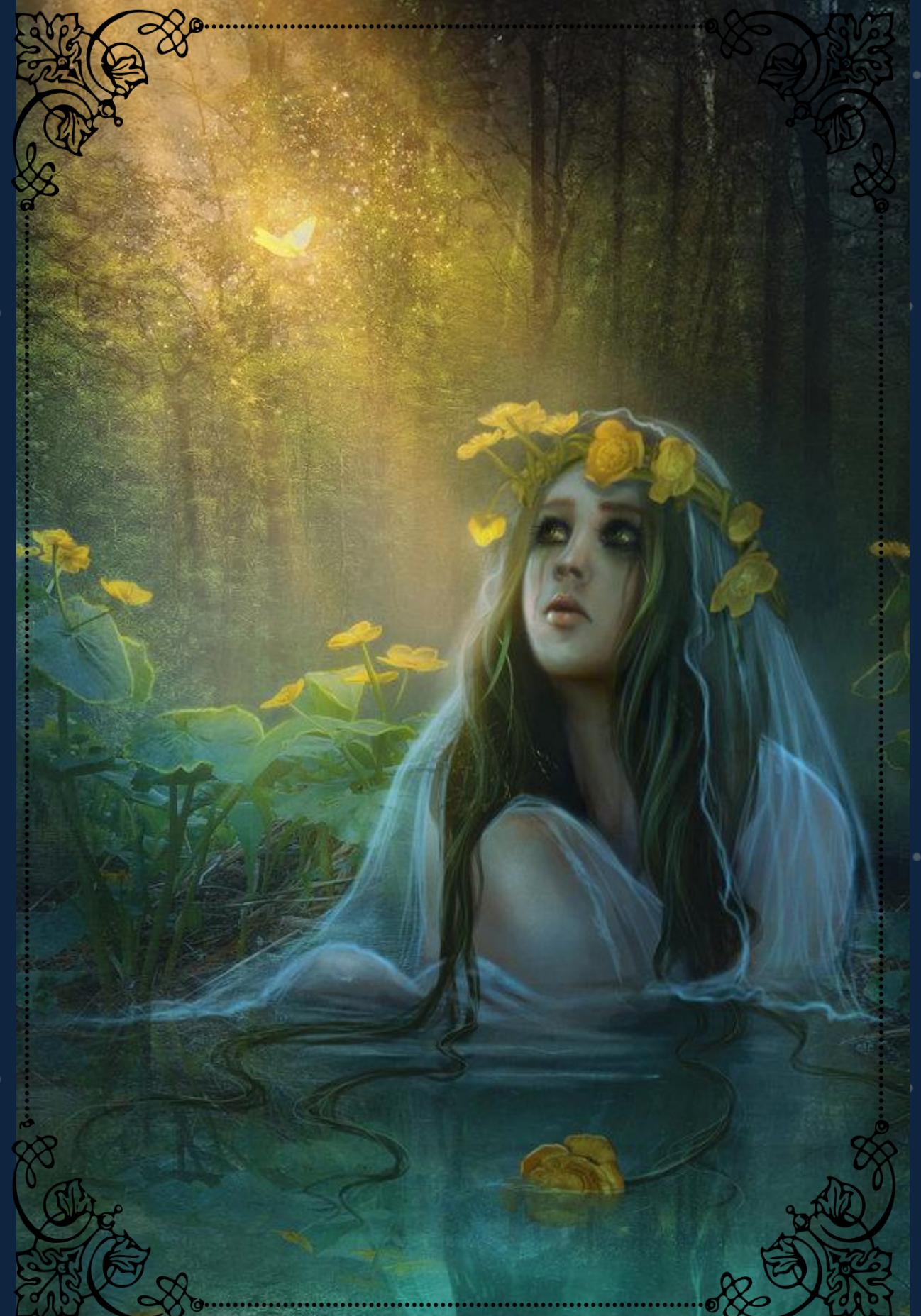
Baba

Cioanță



Stima Apei

# Spirits of water



Rusali

# Spirits of wind



lele's  
Dance

# 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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