

# DIWALI



N.001

YESHAHYAH YISRAEL OF KARE  
COLLECTIVE BY KENNET REY  
@KENNETREY AND ABDUL @BANJUW

AN INTERFAITH ZINE FOR ALL OF US

## **A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR**

VANNAKAM, FRIENDS. MY NAME IS ANJU KASTURIRAJ AND I WORK AS A MIGRATION HERITAGE & BELONGING COMMUNITY FACILITATOR AT THE NATIONAL MARITIME MUSEUM. I WAS RAISED CATHOLIC, AND I WAS 20 YEARS OLD THE FIRST TIME I CELEBRATED DIWALI. MY FRIEND SYONA HAD US OVER, THEY MADE THE BEST RASAM. WE GATHERED AS QUEER CATHOLICS HINDUS ZOROASTRIANS MUSLIMS AND ATHIEST-HIPPIES. WE WOULD CALL EACH OTHER "AUNTIE" AS A GENTLE JAB IF SOMEONE WAS BEING TOO FUSSY. WE LISTENED TO A MIX OF 80S TAMIL LOVE SONGS AND THE PUSSYCAT DOLLS. WE WERE EVERYTHING. I FELT LIGHT. I FELT GOD IN MY FRIENDS AND THE SURROGATE FAMILY WE MADE.

I CURATED THIS ZINE TO CELEBRATE THE PERSISTENT CREATIVITY OF QUEER COMMUNITIES AND HOW WE KEEP TRADITIONS ALIVE WHILE CULTIVATING OUR OWN. HOW WE INNOVATE. HOW WE NURTURE CHOSEN FAMILIES THAT HOLD MIRRORS UP TO OUR OWN ROOTS. HOW WE CONNECT TO OUR ANCESTORS AND THE DIVINE. HOW THIS WARMS US. HOW IT CASTS SHADOWS. HOW IT HEALS AND MOVES. HOW IT BRINGS US CLOSER TO THE SUN. THE LIGHT WITHIN AND ALL AROUND AND EVERYWHERE IN YOU AND ME AND IN US AND THEM DEMANDS TO BE CELEBRATED.

ANJU KASTURIRAJ SHE/HER  
INSTAGRAM @AVANT.GUARDIANANGEL

# **ROSE MILK POTION FOR THE HOME**

## **INGREDIENTS**

3 AND 1/2 CUPS REGULAR OR OAT MILK

2 GENEROUS TBSP OF GROUND TURMERIC

## **MEASURE**

DRIED ROSE PETALS, LAVENDAR,  
HONEY, & ROSE WATER TO YOUR DESIRE

BOIL MILK OF YOUR CHOICE IN A POT / STIR IN TURMERIC UNTIL MILK TURNS GOLDEN / ADD DRIED FLOWERS AND ALLOW THEIR ESSENCE TO INFUSE / REDUCE HEAT AND ADD ROSE WATER AND HONEY FOR SWEETNESS AND DEPTH. IT'S A VERY SIMPLE RECIPE I ADAPTED FROM THE HOUSEWARMING TRADITION TO BOIL MILK UNTIL IT SPILLS OVER. TO INVOKE HARMONY BETWEEN OUR THREE HOMES: THE EARTH OUR BODIES AND OUR MINDS. TO REMIND MYSELF THOSE THREE ARE ONE. DRINK WITH LOVED ONES, USE AS A BATH-BLEND, SIP WHILE FLIPPING THROUGH THIS ZINE.

XX ANJU



**HANDPOKED RANGOLI, BERBER, AND KOLAM BY  
TATTOO ARTIST HAYAH KHAN  
INSTAGRAM @HAYAH\_**



*KOLAM AND RANGOLI DESIGNS ARE OFTEN MADE WITH CHALK, SAND, QUARTZ DUST, FLOWER PETALS, AND RICE. THEY ARE TYPICALLY MADE BY WOMEN AND GIRLS, WHO KEEP THE TRADITION ALIVE BY PASSING IT DOWN GENERATIONALLY. RANGOLI DESIGNS OFTEN REFLECT THE NATURAL WORLD, FOLKLORE, GODS AND DEITIES, AND ARE DRAWN ESPECIALLY DURING TIMES OF CELEBRATION LIKE DIWALI.*

**1. WHAT DOES A CELEBRATION OF LIGHT MEAN TO YOU?**

THE CELEBRATION OF LIGHT SPANS A LOT OF DIFFERENT CULTURES BECAUSE IN ANCIENT TIMES, IT WAS COMMON KNOWLEDGE THAT CONNECTING WITH A LIT FLAME OPENS OUR THIRD EYE AND ALLOWS US TO CONNECT WITH THE UNIVERSE BETTER. THAT'S WHY MANY CULTURES PRAY WITH CANDLES.

I THINK IT'S IMPORTANT FOR US TO CELEBRATE THE DARK TOO, IN THAT WHICH CANNOT BE SEEN, AND UNDERSTAND THE DEPTH OF HUMANITY AND WHERE IT HAS BROUGHT US BUT ALSO I SEE THE "DARK" AS THE COSMOS AND ASTRAL PLANE, WHICH SHOULD ALWAYS BE CELEBRATED AS THAT WHICH CANNOT BE SEEN IN THE PHYSICAL WORLD. MY "SEXUALITY" AS A PANSEXUAL, NON BINARY PERSON ONLY BRINGS ME CLOSER TO GOD / THE UNIVERSE BECAUSE ALL IT MEANS IS THAT I HONESTLY ACKNOWLEDGE THE SCIENTIFICALLY PROVEN SPECTRUM OF HUMAN SEXUALITY AND GENDER AND DO NOT ENDORSE BASE LEVEL BINARY THINKING, WHICH IS ROOTED IN VIOLENCE.

**2. WHO DO YOU USUALLY CELEBRATE WITH, WHAT ARE YOU PERSONALLY CELEBRATING?**

USUALLY I SPEND RELIGIOUS EVENTS WITH MY PARENTS, MY BA (GRANDMA) AND EXTENDED FAMILY, LOW KEY KINDA CHILLED BUT WE CHANT AND RESPECT THE UNIVERSE TOGETHER.

INSTAGRAM @NEO10Y IMAGE BY KLAUDIA ND






IMAGE BY JACK HOPE

**NEO 10Y IS DIY FROM CONCEPT TO FINAL PRODUCT AND DIRECTS AND PRODUCES THEIR OWN HYPER REALITY MUSIC VIDEOS; SOME HAVE GONE VIRAL. THEIR SONGS HAVE BEEN FEATURED BY BILLBOARD, PAPER, COLORS, DAZED, BBC, THE EVENING STANDARD, GQ, GAL DEM, INTERVIEW MAGAZINE, PLUS MAJOR SPOTIFY PLAYLISTS INCLUDING COSMIC PLAYLISTS, DISCOVER WEEKLY, YOUR DAILY MIX.**

**THEY ARE AN ADVOCATE FOR CONSCIOUS LEADERSHIP AND THE UTOPIAN FUTURE OF HUMANITY WHICH IS BROUGHT TO LIFE THROUGH THEIR SONIC LANDSCAPE, PROVOCATIVE VISUALS AND REGULAR WORK WITH THE BBC, NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC AND OTHER OUTLETS.**







Yeshayah Yisrael of KARE  
COLLECTIVE by Abdul  
@banjuw and Kennet  
@Kennetrey

**I HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO  
DIGITALLY MEET WITH HANSIKA  
JETHNANI, ACTIVIST, POET, AND  
CO-FOUNDER OF FUNKY  
MAHARANI JEWELRY. YOU CAN  
LISTEN TO OUR FULL  
CONVERSATION, ON REIMAGINING  
QUEER FUTURES, INTERFAITH  
SPACES, AND DIASPORIC IDENTITY  
ON THE NATIONAL MARITIME  
MUSEUM WEBSITE.**

INSTAGRAM: @HANSIKAJETTHNANI  
@FUNKYMAHARANI

HAND

*crafted*



[www.funkymaharani.com](http://www.funkymaharani.com)

# TRADITION

updated



## **POEMS BY HANSIKA JETHNANI**

**"I WROTE THE FOLLOWING POEM WHEN THE POGROM IN DELHI ENSUED, WHEN VIOLENCE UNLEASHED AGAINST MUSLIMS BY ARMED HINDUTVA SUPREMACISTS THWARTED HOMES AND PEOPLE UNDER THE EYES OF DELHI POLICE AS THEY IDLY STOOD BY. WHILE MAINSTREAM MEDIA COVERED TRUMP'S VISIT TO INDIA, WHILE MODI AND TRUMP AGREED ON A \$3 BILLION ARMS DEAL, MUSLIM FOLKS WERE TARGETED, A MOSQUE WAS SET ABLAZE AND A SAFFRON FLAG REPRESENTING THE RIGHT-WING FASCIST BJP WAS PLACED ATOP THE MINARET OF THE MOSQUE.**

**I SAW A PICTURE TAKEN BY ATUL LOKE FOR THE NY TIMES OF PAGES THE QURAN BURNED BY HINDUTVA SUPREMACISTS ON THE STEPS OF A MOSQUE IN DELHI ON FEBRUARY 26TH, AND THAT PROMPTED THE POEM."**

**...  
HOW DO YOU MAKE THOSE AT EASE UNCOMFORTABLE? HOW ARE YOU SUPPOSED TO FEEL ABOUT FLOWERS BLOOMING IN A COUNTRY WHERE BOMBING PEOPLES PLACES OF WORSHIP AND SPITTING DISGUST AND VIOLENCE ON OTHERS IS PERMITTED? GIVEN A THUMBS UP BY POLITICIANS IN POWER.**

**WHAT HAPPENS TO SEEDS THEN?**

**WHAT HAPPENS TO STORIES OUR CHILDREN WILL HEAR?**

**WHAT HAPPENS TO TRUTH AND HUMANITY?**

**WHAT HAPPENS TO LIFE AND LOVE?**

**WHAT HAPPENS TO COURAGE?**

**WHAT HAPPENS TO JUSTICE?**

**WHAT HAPPENS TO WORDS?**

**"I WROTE THE FOLLOWING POEM ON FEBRUARY 27TH 2019, WHEN ONCE AGAIN, FOLLOWING AGGRAVATED POLITICAL TENSIONS BETWEEN PAKISTAN AND INDIA, THERE WERE MANY CALLING FOR WAR BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES THAT WERE ONCE ONE." -HANSIKA JETHNANI**

THEIR BLOOD WILL SPILL.  
THE PAIN WILL SINK INTO THE SKINS OF THEIR  
LOVED ONES  
CARVING ETCHES ONTO THEIR LIVES THAT WILL  
NEVER BE UNDONE.  
AND EVEN THEN - THE VIOLENCE WILL NOT STOP.  
THEIR BLOOD WILL MARK THE LAND EVERYONE IS  
FIGHTING FOR  
LEAVING SOIL TO BIRTH FLOWERS THAT WILL  
NEVER FULLY BLOOM  
THEIR BLOOD WILL STRETCH THE OCEAN IN HALF  
AND EVEN THEN - THE VIOLENCE WILL NOT STOP.  
THEIR BLOOD WILL HEAVE CRIES  
ECHOING IN MOSQUES, TEMPLES, AND CHURCHES  
ALIKE.  
THEIR BLOOD WILL SHED IN MASSES  
LIKE TEARS THEIR LOVED ONES WILL ALWAYS  
CARRY.  
AND EVEN THEN - THE VIOLENCE WILL NOT STOP.  
THE LINES CREATED AS A RESULT OF THOSE THAT  
BELIEVE THERE'S MORE THAT DIVIDES US THAN  
THAT WHICH MAKES US ONE WILL NOT JUST  
DISAPPEAR.

THEY WILL MULTIPLY IN MULTITUDES  
AND BIRTH EQUATIONS THAT WILL  
NEVER BE UNDONE.  
NOT UNTIL WE LEARN TO UNDO THE  
LINES THAT HAVE BEEN IMPOSED UPON  
US.

LINES THAT THEN E

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D. LINES

THAT HAVE CAUSED THIS VIOLENCE.  
LET ME ASK YOU A QUESTION -  
HAVE YOU EVER SEEN PEACE COME  
FROM MORE VIOLENCE AS AN ANSWER  
TO VIOLENCE?  
IN EARTH'S 4.5 BILLION YEARS OF  
EXISTENCE HAVE YOU EVER SEEN PEACE  
COME FROM MORE PAIN AS AN ANSWER  
TO PAIN?



Drop 1  
Meera Chauda  
2017. Photographic Collage





Cardamom Rain  
Meera Chauda  
2020. Photographic Collage





Yellow Brick Road  
Meera Chauda  
2015. Photographic Collage.

***FIN.***