

# OUR MIRROR WORLDS



THE FIRE THESE TIMES #182

a zine by @Lizar\_tisry

# Entering the Mirror World



# Amid crisis and shock, we feel disoriented

and powerless.

We look for explanations of what happened and begin to see that the system is rigged by those at the top.

"Global  
Elite"

Men

White  
People

U.S. Empire

*If we don't have **guiding ethics and principles**  
**and worldview**, then we're completely **at sea**  
**and just choosing teams.***

Far  
Right

Liberal  
Feminists

Zionists

Authoritarian  
Leftists

Each of these teams want their turn at the top of the system - to do it better. Without uprooting systems of extraction and exploitation, this "Our Turn Now" approach to justice creates a replication.

**A Mirror World.**

## ***It's a very difficult thing to de-center***

The Mirror World requires a myth of exceptionality - the violence to which it is responding must be singular in order to justify its response. Recognizing



how **violence operates intrinsically within capitalism and state power** begins to expose the cracks of the Mirror World.

Israel is not fighting anti-semitism.

It is another genocidal project.

The liberation of Palestine is not reducible to, or achievable solely through, fighting US imperialism. **Palestine is necessarily tied to resistance against ALL state power and ethno-nationalism.**

***oneself, and one's imagined community and nation.***

# D o p p l e

When someone enters the Mirror World, they become a doppelgänger of someone else - their former selves, or someone they could have been.

Someone like Trump is so horrible, so Other, I can say "that's Them." I can put Them in a box and reach for the moral high ground.



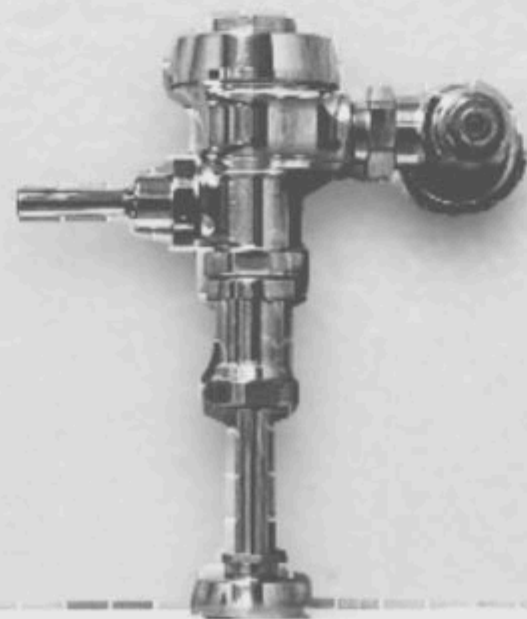
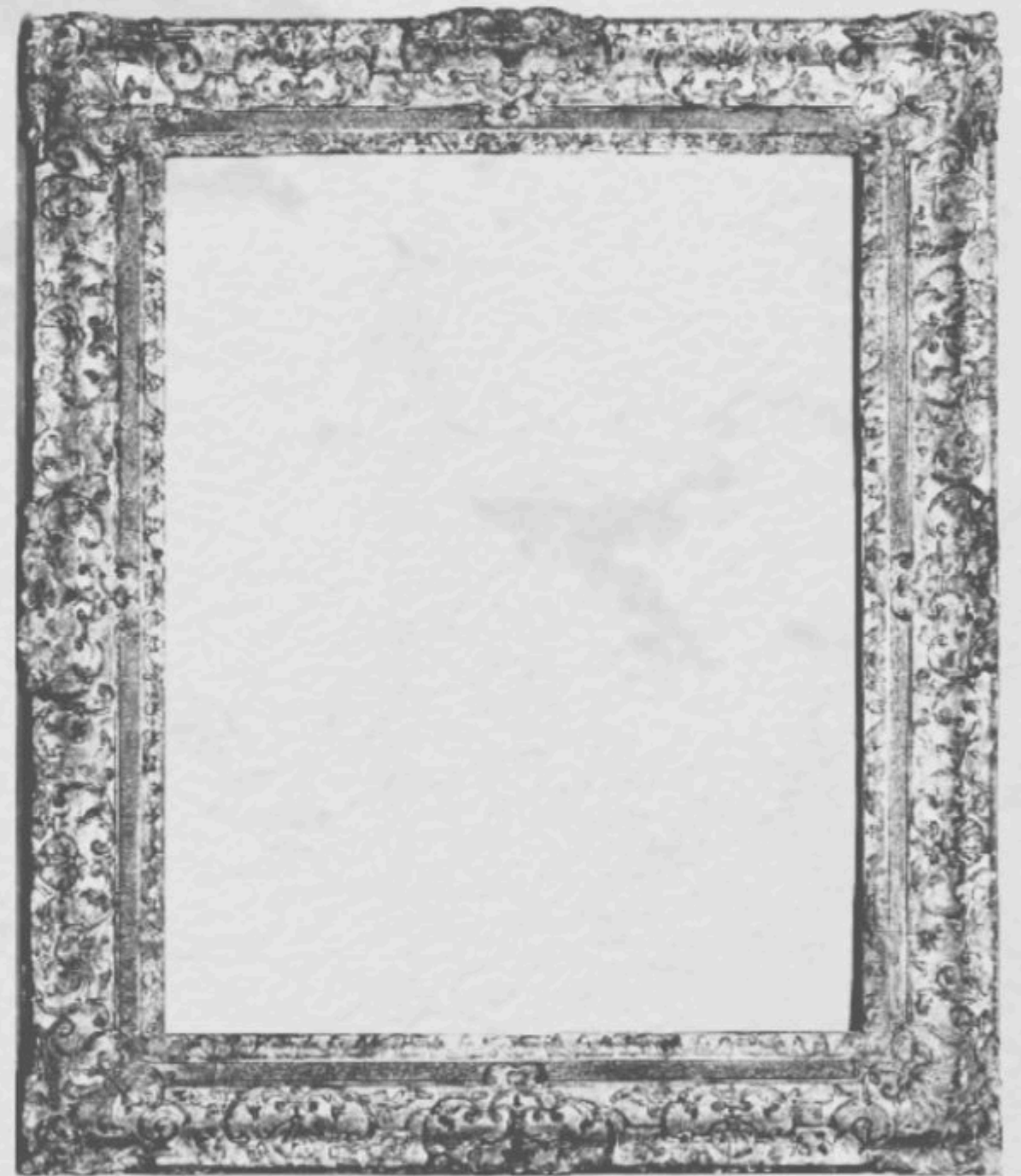
◦ No part of me  
understands  
him. He feels  
like another  
species. ◦



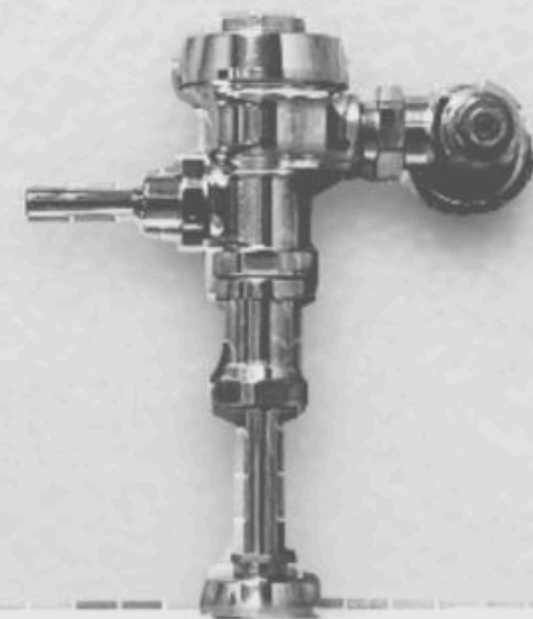
# g a n g e r

But the doppelgänger bears the uncanny - the chill of the familiar - reminding us of the lives we might have led, the people we might have been.

*I see my own doppelgänger as a mirror that's shown me some things I don't like about myself.*



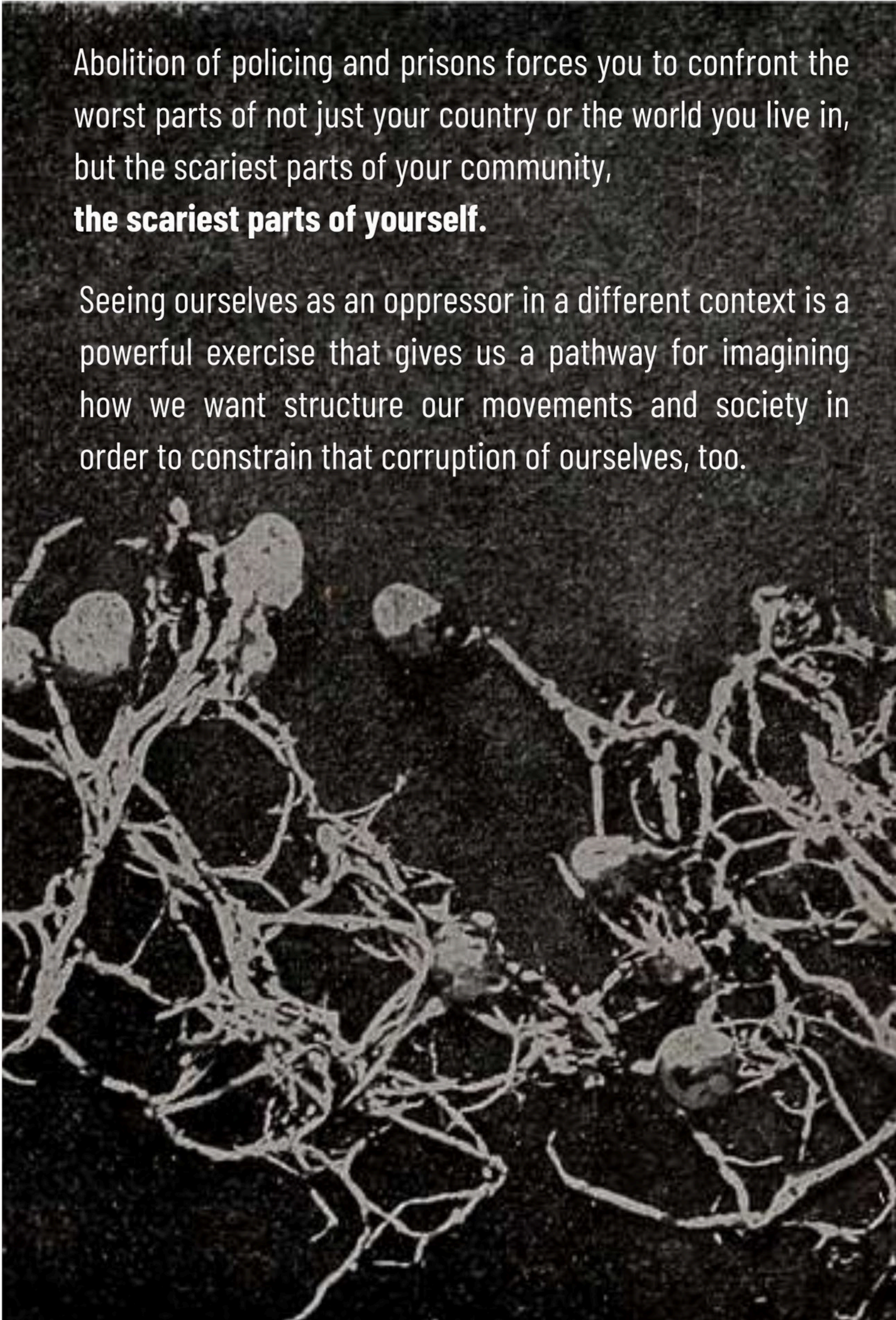
He looks and speaks like us!  
He knows our slang!

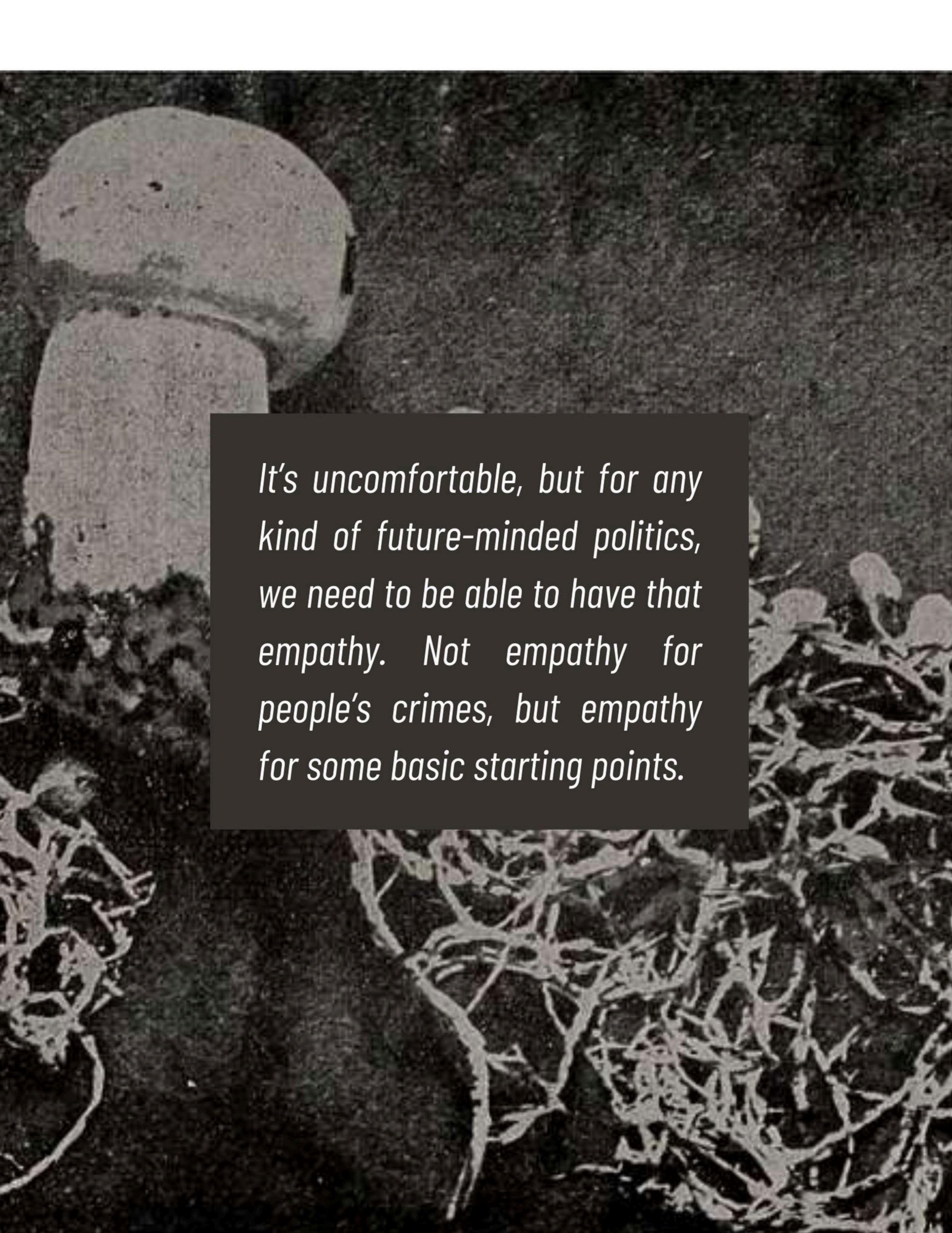


# The Fruit of the Uncanny and Abolition

Abolition of policing and prisons forces you to confront the worst parts of not just your country or the world you live in, but the scariest parts of your community, **the scariest parts of yourself.**

Seeing ourselves as an oppressor in a different context is a powerful exercise that gives us a pathway for imagining how we want structure our movements and society in order to constrain that corruption of ourselves, too.



A black and white photograph of a mushroom growing on a forest floor. The mushroom has a rounded, slightly textured cap and a thick, cylindrical stem. The ground is dark and appears to be covered in soil and small plants. In the foreground, there are several light-colored, fibrous roots or plant matter. The overall scene is dimly lit, creating a somber and naturalistic atmosphere.

*It's uncomfortable, but for any kind of future-minded politics, we need to be able to have that empathy. Not empathy for people's crimes, but empathy for some basic starting points.*



# The Mirror Dance

Calls for  
ceasefire



Calls for  
release of the  
hostages

Once something is an issue to "Them,"

the Left just takes the opposite position.

Calls for  
ceasefire



Calls for  
release of  
the hostages

Hasbara  
propaganda





----- Lack of engagement with this intersection has led to *"You either support the end of the genocide **or** you care about the Israeli hostages."* Anyone feeling grief gets a cold shoulder from the Left, saying, *"You're not allowed to grieve!"*

But emotions are unruly, people are going to grieve, and this pushed some people to the right who might not have been.

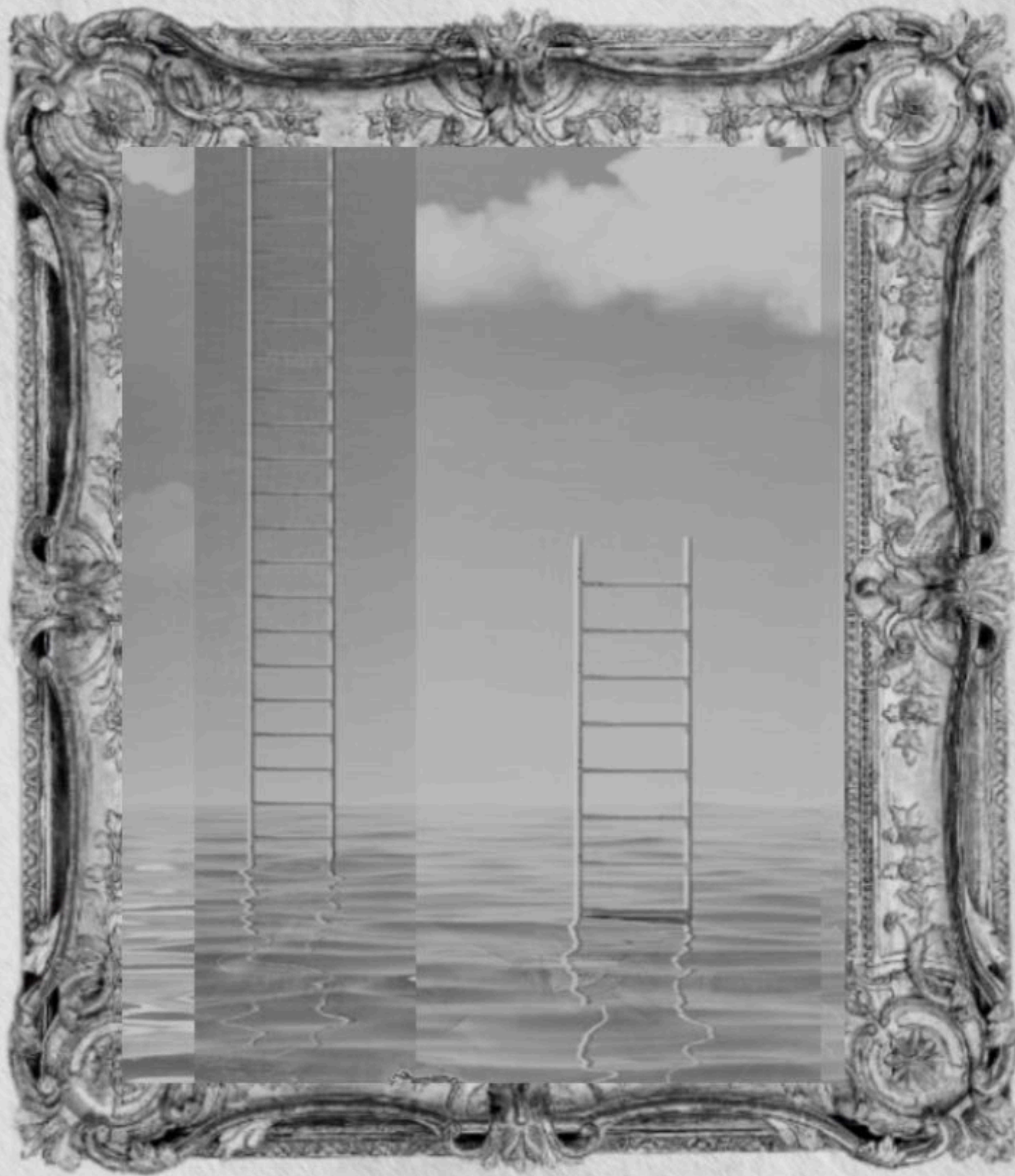


# The Mask Becomes the Face

In the middle of a genocide, it doesn't feel like the right time to air our disagreements. **And we FALL**

*into*

**a habit of silence.**



The loudest voices become the Left. When people talk in a certain way for a year and that's the dominant way, **that becomes what the Left is.**

If there isn't a clear alternative, then people begin to think, *"Okay, I guess this is how you oppose genocide. I guess these are the rules."*

*Standing on the side of life, in the context of genocide and ecocide and the normalization of mass death on pretty much every front—I don't believe that's moderate. I don't believe it's liberal. I believe it's radical, transformational. There's a posture of radicalism that actually defends these institutions, defends massive states with massive armies. I don't want to cede the definition of what is radical to those self-styled "radicals."*

# The Periphery

**Some answers lie not with us here, but in the peripheries.**

No matter what we say or do, Palestinian children are going to keep being born today, tomorrow, in five years, and in ten years, Their parents are going to take care of them, sing to them, tell them stories, and find ways to build resilience for them.

Maybe it's not our job to figure out how to comfort Palestinian children, because the truth is, we just can't. I can't pick up a child that's not my own and ever give them the comfort that his mother or grandmother or even his neighbor could.

***It feels like the American Left, Liberals, whoever it was, ignored tthe screaming periphery who were showing them where this was all headed. And of course that's where it ended up.***

But what I can do, and what I think is our job to do,  
and ask ourselves, how do we  
is to see different  
genuinely  
structures of resistance  
tie them to each other  
and caretaking  
in a world that  
actively  
under these  
that have been created  
circumstances of occupation and oppression  
disaggregate them?  
seeks to

is the  
Center.

This zine is based on episode 182 of the podcast ""The Fire These Times." It was designed by @Liz\_artistry. Find the full episode at [fromtheperiphery.com](http://fromtheperiphery.com).

For episode 182, Elia, Anna, and Dana were joined by author, scholar, and activist Naomi Klein to discuss her most recent book, [Doppelganger: A Trip into the Mirror World](#), and the myriad connections her analysis of the cultural rise of fascism has to our work at From the Periphery.

Hosts: Elia Ayoub, Anna M, Dana El Kurd | Guest: Naomi Klein | Music: [Rap and Revenge](#) | TFFT theme design: [Wenyi Geng](#) | FTP theme design: [Hisham Rifai](#) | Sound editor: Kaylee | Team profile pics: [Molly Crabapple](#) | Episode design: Elia Ayoub | Producer: Aydın Yıldız

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