

CIELA



THAT IS OUR STORY - LAUGHING- OUR STORY IS VERY INTERESTING YES AND SOMETIMES WE

FEEL LONELY AND SOMETIMES YOU KNOW YOU FEEL TIRED PHYSICALLY, EMOTIONALLY



SPIRITUALLY SOMETIMES SO WHEN WE CALL EACH OTHER AND WE'RE CRYING BECAUSE YOU



MISS YOUR FAMILY SOMETIMES SOOOO BUT IT'S NORMAL, THAT'S LIFE WHAT CAN WE DO?





THERE IS NOTHING TO DO, THIS IS THE LIFE, WE WANT THIS.THEY DIDN'T FORCED US TO COME

HERE SO IT'S OKAY. THE FIRST YEAR YOU WORK HERE, YOU JUST WORK TO PAY ALL YOUR



DEPTHS. YOU DON'T EARN ANYTHING IN YOUR FIRST YEAR. WHEN I CAME HERE I PAID EVERYTHING,

ALSO FOR THE TRAINING. YOU NEED TO DO IT IN THE PHILIPPINES WHEN YOU WANT TO WORK



IN ISRAEL. YOU NEED TO LEARN FOR TWO WEEKS HEBREW AND HOUSEKEEPING CHORES, OKAY



LETS EAT LETS EAT, YEAH YOU NEED TO DO THE COURSE. BUT IF YOU COMPARE IT TO OTHER

*you said let's make a home
in this passing-by place
where once and a while
I make a frame*

Frame one

*my grandmother is calling you,
asking for scrambled eggs bevakasha
fragile lines of her handwriting
elucidating her needs in your hands*



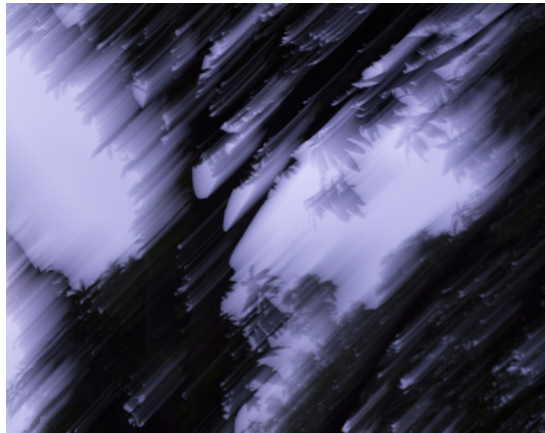
COUNTRIES LIKE DUBAI, SAUDI ARABIA AND QATAR, OVER THERE YOU EARN WAY LESS AND

THE WORK IS ALSO HARDER.. BUT ALSO HERE, NOT EVERYONE IS LUCKY WITH THE EMPLOYER



THAT SUITS YOU. SOME EMPLOYERS AT FIRST THEY ARE NICE BUT THEY SHOW THEMSELVES AND

CHANGE. FIRST THEY ARE PRETENDING TO BE NICER BECAUSE THEY WANT THE CAREGIVER TO



STAY. THEN YOU SHOULD TALK TO THE AGENCY, YOU GO THERE FOR YOUR VISA, COMPLAINTS,

IF THERE IS A NEW LAW. BUT THERE ARE AGENCIES PRO EMPLOYER AND PRO CAREGIVER. AND



THERE IS AN AGENCY, HOW DO YOU SAY IT, THEY ARE MORE SIDING WITH THE EMPLOYERS

EVEN THOUGH ITS WRONG. FOR EXAMPLE WHEN THEY DON'T GIVE THEM THE SALARY THEY NEED



TO PAY OR ABUSE, OR WHEN THEY LET THE CAREGIVER CLEAN IN THE DAUGHTERS HOUSE OR

SOMETHING. ONLY WHEN YOU GO TO THIS AGENCY UNION FOR FOREIGN LABORERS, THEY

frame two

*some days hiding
sheltered from the daylight
hearing the water drip
rinsing skin as you soap her in
her soft and thankful body*



HELP YOU WITH THE COMPENSATION AND YOUR RIGHTS, HUMAN RIGHTS AND WORKER RIGHTS.

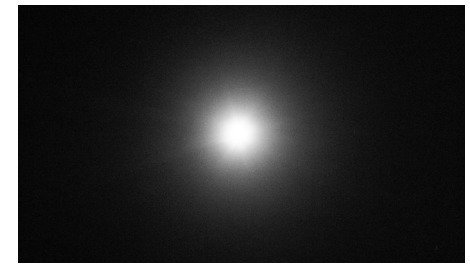
FILIPINOS KNOW EVERY RIGHT. ITS GOOD, THEY STAND UP FOR THEIR RIGHTS, BECAUSE WE



KNOW OUR RIGHTS. BUT IN ISRAEL YOU CAN ONLY WORK AS A CAREGIVER WHEN YOU ARE A



FILIPINO. YEAH EVEN IF YOU ARE GRADUATED AS A NURSE, A DENTIST YOU CAN'T USE IT HERE



BECAUSE FILIPPINOS ARE ONLY ALLOWED TO WORK AS CAREGIVERS. DO YOU MIND THAT YOU

CAN ONLY WORK HERE AS A CAREGIVER? I DON'T MIND THE WORK THAT I'M DOING, ENJOYING



ACTUALLY, EVEN THOUGH MY FRIENDS AND FAMILY SAY OH YOU ARE JUST SWIPING SOME BUTS,



OLDER BUTS YOU KNOW -LAUGHING- SOME POOPS, POOPS OF OTHER PEOPLE YOU KNOW YOU



SOME PEOPLE WILL SAY YOU WENT TO UNIVERSITY, A DECENT UNIVERSITY AND YOU JUST WIPE



THE TUSIK. SO I SAY I DON'T CARE, SO WHAT? IT'S A DECENT JOB ALSO. I DIDN'T KILL ANYONE,



OR STEP ON ANYONES RULES. I'M ENJOYING THE WORK. SOOOOO, IT'S OKAY, IT'S OKAY,

BUT YOU NEED TO SACRIFICE, YOU NEED TO BE THANKFUL BECAUSE WE SURVIVE -LAUGHING-

frame three

*you faded a bit on the webcam screen
mom, sisters and grandmothers' faces in
little cubes
their delayed voices with their lines of
thought
you hold them near*

Can We Still Dream? Can We Still Dream? Can We Still Dream? Can We Still Dream?



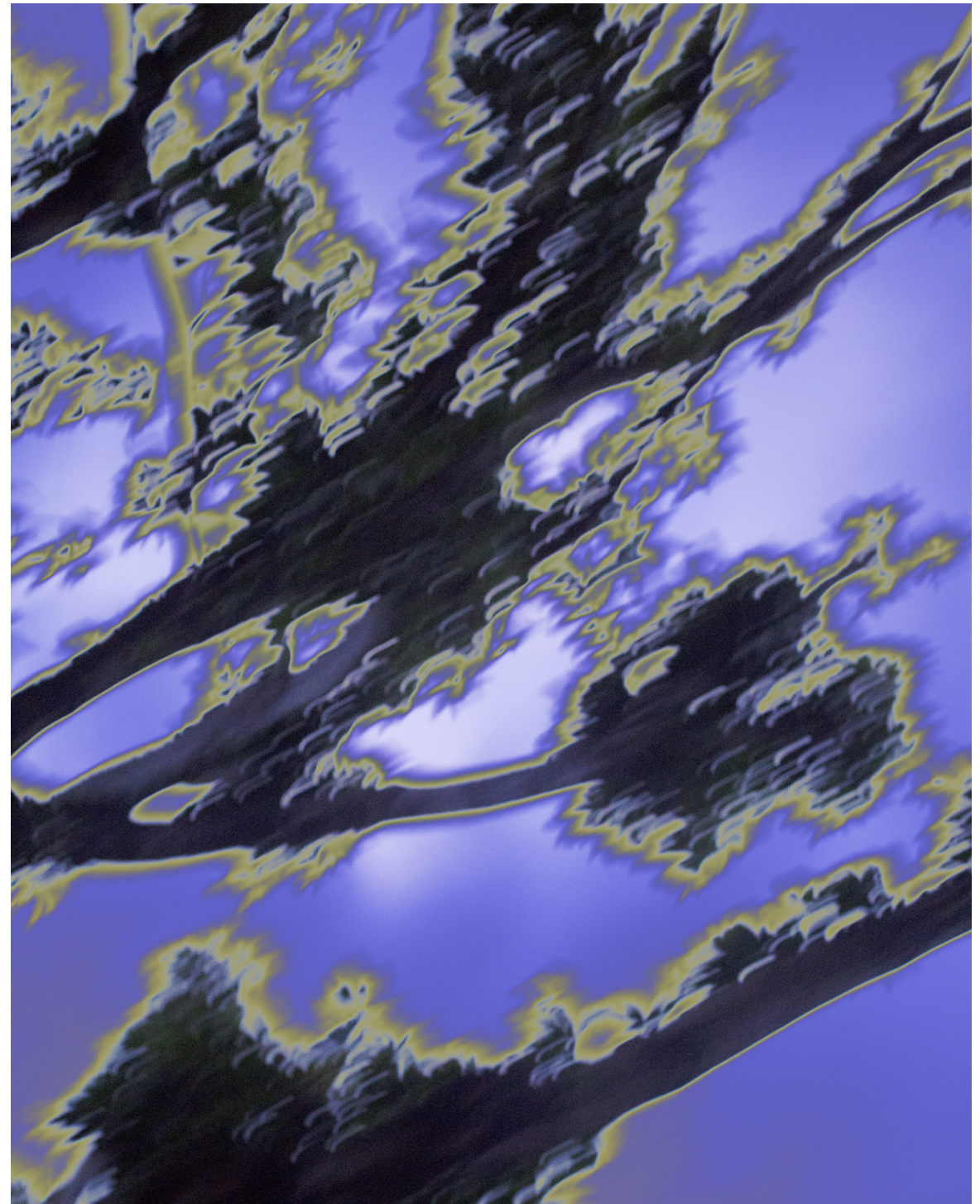
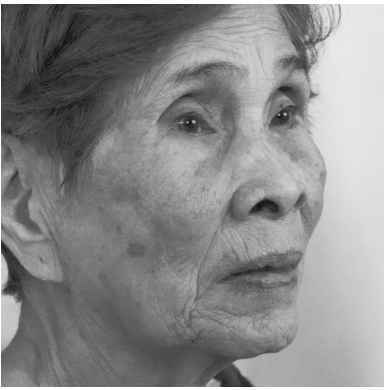
BUT SOMETIMES IT'S HARD WE DO IT FOR THE FAMILY. FOR THE SAKE OF THE FUTURE OF YOUR

FAMILIES. WE NEED TO BE STRONG. BECAUSE SOMETIMES IN THE BACK OF OUR MIND WE'RE



THINKING, OH I WANT TO GO BACK TO THE PHILIPPINES BECAUSE IF YOU COMPARE YOUR LIFE,

YOUR LIFE IN THE PHILIPPINES IS VERY SIMPLE YOU DON'T NEED A VERY VERY LUXURIOUS LIFE



TO BE HAPPY. NOOO, IN THE PHILIPPINES WE CANNOT BUY ALL THESE THINGS LIKE OUR

HANDBAGS BECAUSE OUR PRIORITY IS THE FAMILY, THE FOOD, THE EXPENSES OF THE

CHILDREN WE DO MISS THE SIMPLE LIFE BUT IN THE BACK OF OUR MIND IT'S OKAY BECAUSE

NOT ONLY FOR OURSELF BUT WE GIVE OUR FAMILY AN EXTRA AND BECAUSE OF THAT THEY LIVE





COMFORTABLE. YOU GIVE THEM MORE EASY. BUT FOR THEIR FUTURE THEY HAVE MORE

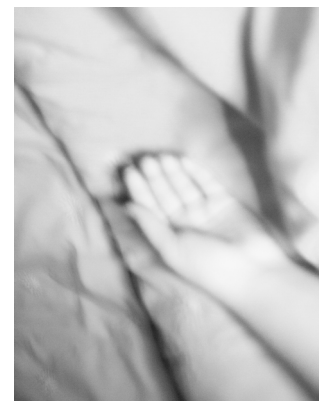
OPPORTUNITIES TO STUDY. IT'S ALL ABOUT THE SACRIFICE FOR THE FUTURE OF YOUR FAMILY.

frame four

*in the kibbutz, this neck of the woods
walls are with grains
lights so yellow at night
with dogs tracing my ways*



IF YOU WANT YOUR FAMILY TO BE BETTER, THERE IS ONE PERSON IN EVERY FAMILY WHO NEEDS



TO SACRIFICE THEMSELVES TO WORK IN ANOTHER COUNTRY. SO IN MY FAMILY I'M THE ONE



WHO SACRIFICES THINGS FOR THEM. BUT FOR ME, I'M HAPPY BECAUSE IT COMES FROM MY

HEART TO DO THIS FOR THEM. NOT BECAUSE I NEED TO, THEY DIDNT ASKED ME TO GO, I WANT



THEM TO EXPERIENCE THE MORE COMFORTABLE, WHAT THEY SAW IN OTHER RICH KIDS. SO WE

DO IT FOR THE FAMILY AND I ENJOY CARGIVING, BUT ALSO THE INDEPENDENCY IS IMPORTANT



FOR ME, THAT I DON'T NEED TO MIND MY UNCLES AND OLDER PEOPLE IN MY FAMILY WHO

SAY WHAT I NEED TO DO AND EVERY INCH I MOVE I NEED TO BE CAREFUL ABOUT IT. NOT HERE



EVEN THOUGH THEY ARE GONNA GET ANGRY, THEY CANT DO ANYTHING WITH ME FROM THAT



FAR -LAUGHING- ATE, ATE WE NEED TO COOK THE PANCIT BUT YOU STAY HERE WITH SHAY

frame five

*you used to have some sticky rice,
chicken adobo and jollibee takeaway
eat it with your family
wander around at the mango farm of your father
sing, sing, sing
some shots of rum
watching the hills mingle*

*the man you wanted to marry has many secrets
at your doorstep wildly unravelled
your cousin phones you
do you want to work in the holy land?
elude your everyday
displace it elsewhere*

OKAY OKAY! ARE YOU ALREADY HUNGRY? NO I'M FINE, THANKS. MY FAMILY LOVES PANCIT,

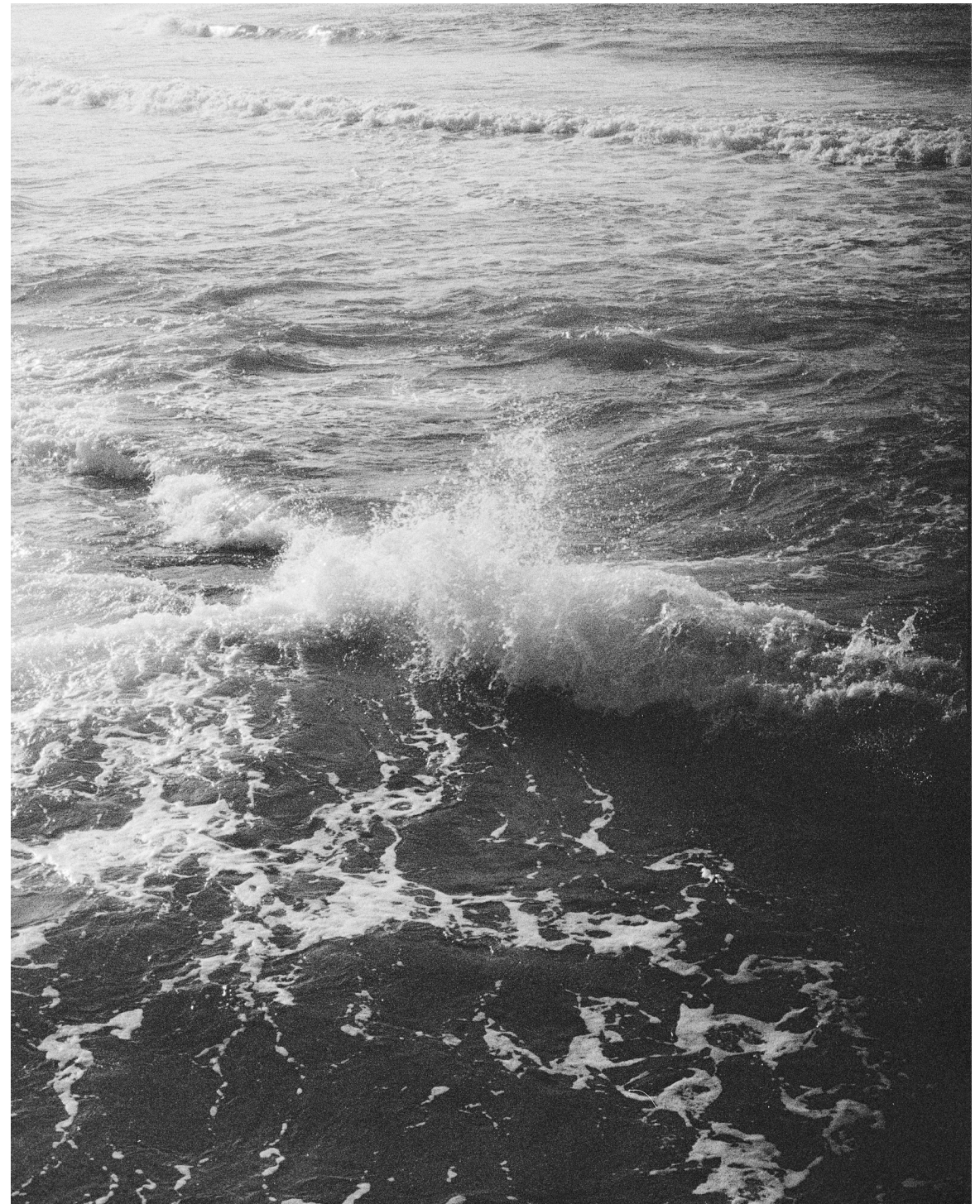
ESPECIALLY MY DAD USED TO LOVE IT. DO YOU STILL THINK ABOUT HIM A LOT? YOU KNOW





RIGHT AFTER HE PASSED AWAY, AT FIRST FOR ME IT DIDN'T SINK IN YET, IN DON'T KNOW WHY

MAYBE BECAUSE I AM ALREADY USED TO BE FAR AWAY FROM THEM ALREADY. I AM USED TO

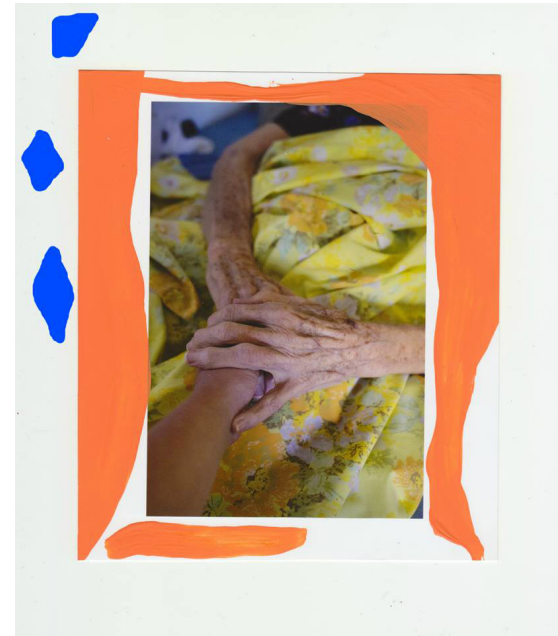


NOT SEEING HIM, I'M NOT IN THE PHILIPPINES. THAT WAS MY THOUGHT FOR LIKE HALF A YEAR,

IT'S LIKE I'M JUST NOT TALKING TO HIM ON SKYPE THAT'S WHY I AM NOT SEEING HIM. BUT THEN



YOU KNOW LATER ON YOU REALISE WHEN YOU MOVE ON, YOU ACCEPT ALREADY THAT HE IS



NOT THERE ANYMORE. BUT SOMETIMES I CRIED ALONE, I DEAL WITH MY PROBLEMS ON MY



OWN. WHEN I WENT BACK THE LAST TIME, I DIDN'T WENT TO THE MANGO FARM ALSO, THEN

I WOULD DWELL TO MUCH. I NEED TO BE STRONG BUT THE TRUTH IS I AM A DADDY'S GIRL SO



THEY KNOW ALREADY ITS ALSO HARD FOR ME. RIGHT AFTER THE FUNERAL OF MY FATHER, LIKE

AT NIGHT WE ARE SLEEPING, 3 O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING NADAV CALLED ME, HE IS CRYING,

frame six

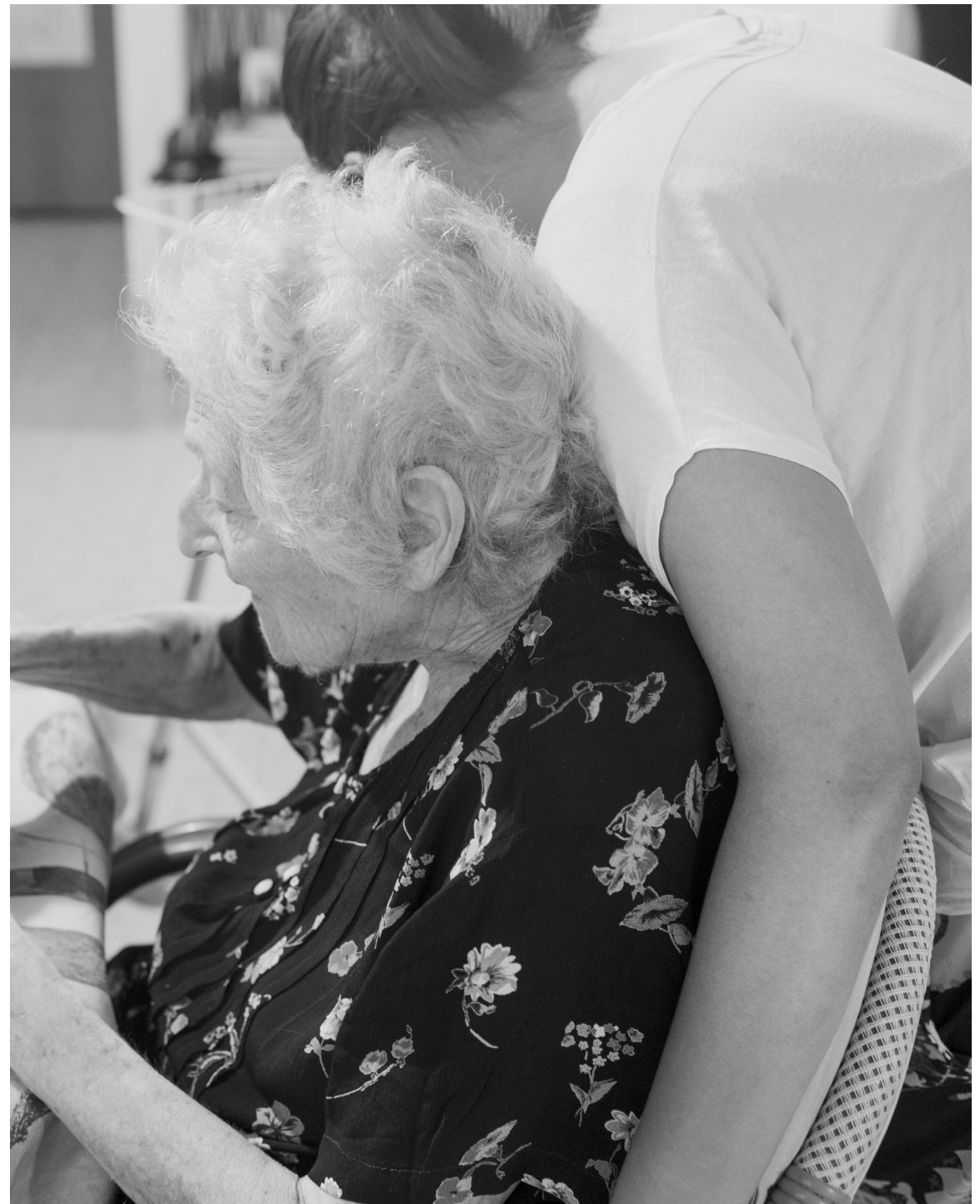
don't close your hands

They harbour such good things



HE IS THE ONE CRYING TO DEATH SAYING CIELA, IT'S IMA. AND THEN I REMEMBER I CRIED A LOT,

MORE THEN MY DAD PASSED AWAY. I CRIED MORE ON THAT ISSUE AND MY MOTHER AND



SISTER WOKE UP -LAUGHING- THEY SAY CIELA WHY ARE YOU CRYING, THEY ARE ALSO CRYING,

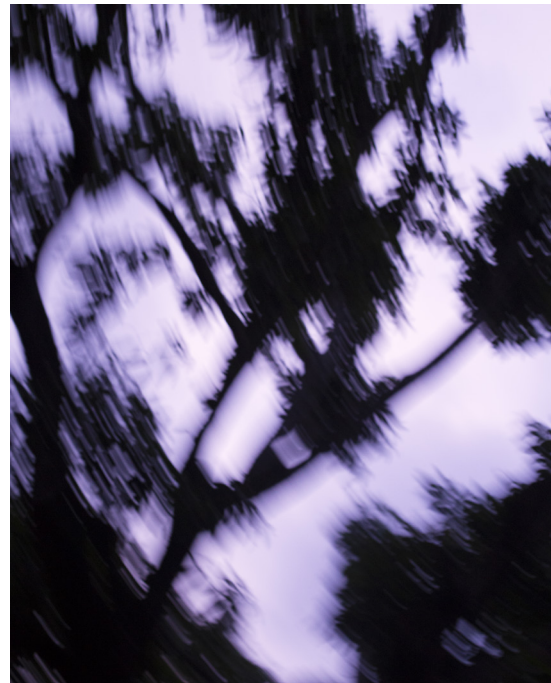
THEY DON'T KNOW WHY I AM CRYING, THEN I SAID SHULAMIT DIED, AND I SAID TO NADAV TO



STOP THE CALL, EVERYONE IS CRYING ALREADY, CAN I CALL YOU BACK? THE WHOLE ROOM



WAS CRYING CAUSE WE SLEPT TOGETHER YOU KNOW CIELA WHAT IS HAPPENING. AT THAT

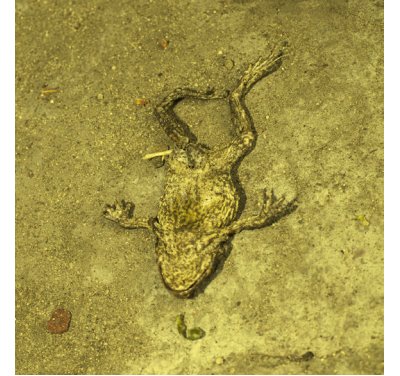


MOMENT I DIDN'T SAID GOODBYE TO YOUR GRANDMOTHER, WE DIDN'T HAVE TIME EVEN THOUGH

I TOLD HER ON WHATSAPP, BECAUSE I CALLED THE RELIEVER AT THE TIME I ALWAYS SAID I



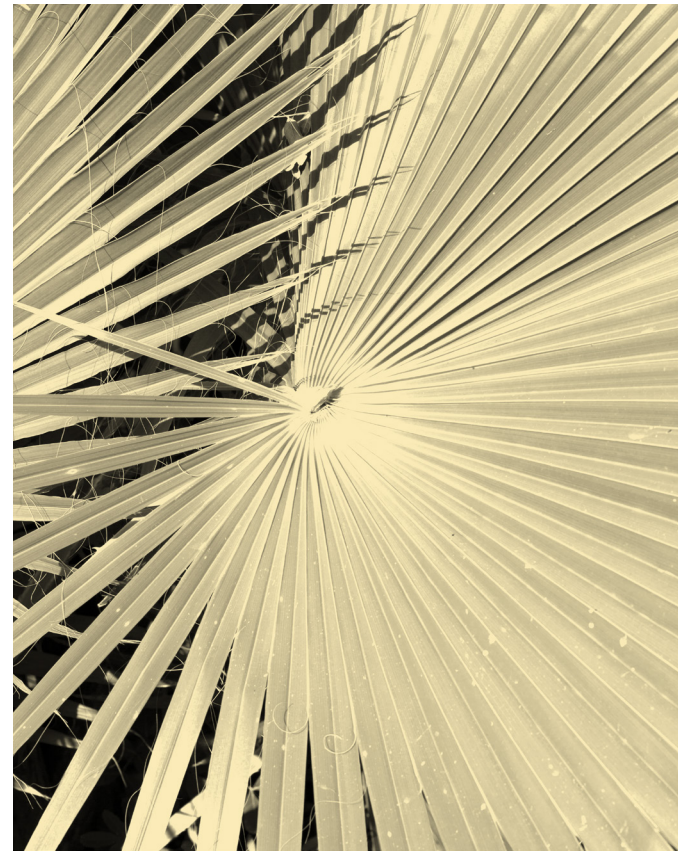
LOVE YOU, WAIT FOR ME I'M COMING BACK BECAUSE I KNEW SHE WASN'T DOING GOOD. I SAID



TO MY MOM, I GO BACK TO ISRAEL. TAMIR SAID NO FINISH YOUR VACATION BUT I CAME BACK.

frame seven

*you listen to thin-skinned words, putting her to bed
codes of law setting forth
you are not bound by hours
stowing away wish lists of care
back in the cupboard to pick up later*



THE TWO OF THEM DYING IN THE SAME MONTH. MY FAMILY SAID CIELA ARE YOU GONNA BE

OKAY? THEY ASK ME IF I WANT TO GO BACK. SO I SAY I AM GOING TO BE MORE SAD IN THE



PHILIPPINES WHEN MY FATHER IS NOT HERE ANYMORE. MARCH IS JUST THE SADDEST MONTH

FOR ME, MY MIND AND HEART REMEMBERS WHAT HAPPENED. I WANT TO BE BUSY BUT SOMETIMES

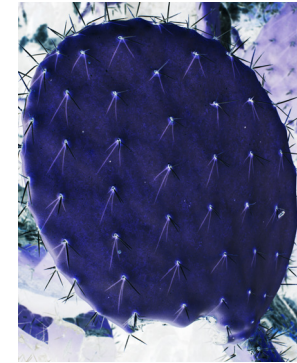


AFTER THE WORK AND I GO UP TO THE ROOM ALONE YEAH KNOW YOU REMEMBER EVERYTHING.

SOMETIMES I TALK TO MY FAMILY OR MY FRIENDS HERE OF WATCH DRAMA, A VARIETY SHOW



YOU KNOW TO FORGET THINGS. BUT EVERYTHING IS OKAY. LOOKING BACK AT ALL OF IT



REMINDS ME HOW LUCKY I AM MEETING THESE GOOD PEOPLE WHILE I AM FAR AWAY FROM



MY FAMILY. IT CAN BE HARSH BUT IT MAKES YOU MORE STRONGER AS A PERSON, IT IS THOUGH,



THE REALITY OF LIFE THAT I AM ALONE AND FAR AWAY FROM HOME. YEAH I MISS THAT PLACE,



BEING HOME. MY FAMILY, SO MUCH. IT CAN STRIKE ME, FEELING HOMESICK AGAIN AND AGAIN.



I SOMETIMES I WANT TO CRY BUT I AM ALMOST ALWAYS ON DUTY SURROUNDED BY ELDERLY

frame eight

*in your mind,
do you lace landscapes together?
the landscapes that changed your point of view*

*as if the green mountains where you were born
and the desert-like city where you live now
are tangled into one place*



AND MY PATIENT. YOU KNOW, I MET A LOT OF GOOD PEOPLE IN MY LIFE. ONE OF THEM IS



SHULAMIT, I HAVE LEARNED A LOT OF THINGS WHILE LIVING AND WORKING WITH HER. I HAVE

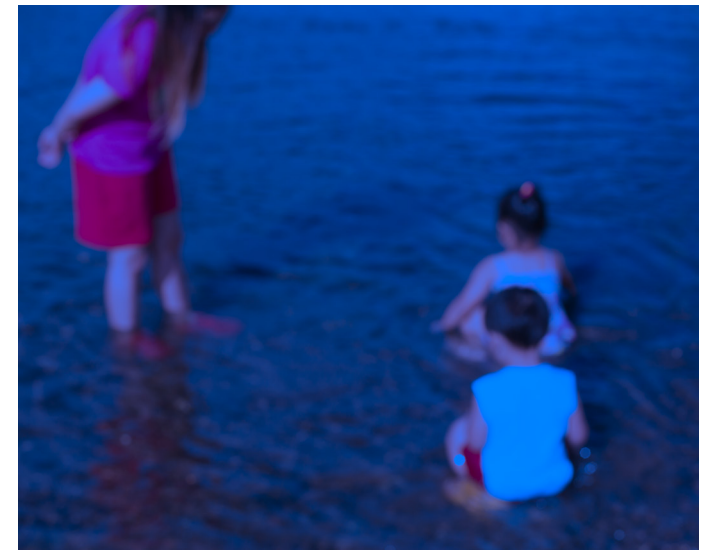


THIS PHOTO WHERE I THINK OF , GIVING WATER TO DEAR SHULAMIT WHILE HER FRIEND

CHAIKI AND ARE LOOKING TO SOME OLD PHOTOS TO REMINISCE. THEY WERE BOTH FROM



CANADA MOVING TO ISRAEL, BECOMING BEST FRIENDS UNTIL THE VERY END. I FEEL LUCKY I SAW



EVERYTHING THROUGH ARGUING, LAUGHING, EATING TOGETHER AND TAKING CARE OF EACH



OTHER ... EVEN THEIR CHILDREN GREW UP TOGETHER AND BECAME FRIENDS UNTIL NOW.

IF ANYTHING, SHULAMIT TAUGHT ME TO TREAT YOUR FRIENDS LIKE YOUR OWN FAMILY. I'M VERY



THANKFUL THAT SHE TREATED ME AS HER OWN, WORRIES ABOUT ME, WE HAD A GOOD LIFE AND

LAUGH TOGETHER... DO YOU REMEMBER, SHE ALWAYS SAID CONSTANT COMMUNICATION IS

frame nine

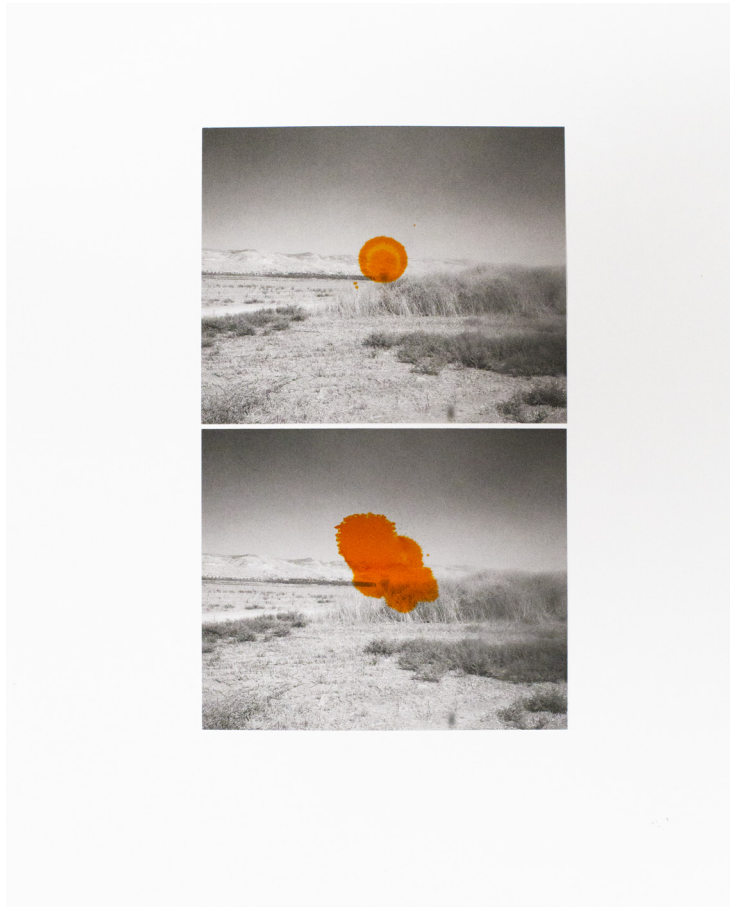
the two of us

look out to await the sun

reminisce and giggle

underneath our eyes

We shuffle family pictures



KEY TO A CLOSE AND LOVING FAMILY. IT IS JUST A PITY I GOT TO KNOW HER AT THE VERY END



OF HER LIFE, PROBABLY IF I MET HER SOONER I GOT TO KNOW MORE LESSONS IN LIFE.. I LOVE



HOW WE WERE CONSTANTLY GLUED TO EACH OTHER BECAUSE WITH HER, I NEVER FELT THAT

I AM JUST TAKING CARE OF HER BUT SHE WAS A WOMAN WHO SAW ME LIKE HER OWN DAUGHTER



INSTEAD OF A STRANGER. YEAH SORRY FOR THE DRAMA -LAUGHING- IF I COULD STILL TALK TO

HER I WOULD SAY SHULAMIT, THANK YOU FOR TREATING ME AS YOUR YOUNGEST CHILD, ALSO



FOR BEING PROUD OF ME IN EVERYTHING THAT I DID AND STILL DO I THINK. JUST THAT SHE

ALLOWED ME TO LOVE HER AND THE ENTIRE FAMILY, ALL THE AMITAIS. I'LL NEVER FORGET THE

frame ten

*frail bodies with long lives
desire to age in place
this is the fast lane of your work*

*as I make some of my frames
get some grip on this story
slows down my mind
someway wide-eyed
reshape of a blood line
we feel it all
recall a love all a long*



LOVE SHE GAVE ME UNCONDITIONALLY. IT'S BEEN YEARS NOW THAT SHE PASSED AWAY BUT

STILL IT CAN BE HARD YOU KNOW. BUT I THINK WE'LL MEET AGAIN SOME DAY.

**DEDICATED TO: CIELA BUCUD AND MY GRANDMA SHULAMIT AMITAI FOR ALL THEIR LOVE.
AND TO ALL THE CAREGVERS OUT THERE FOR THE BEAUTIFUL WORK THEY DO.**

**SPECIAL THANKS TO: CIELA BUCUD AND THE WHOLE FAMILY BUCUD AND SANTIAGO,
MY SISTER AMA AMITAI, MY PARENTS AND MY MENTOR MEKHITAR GARABEDIAN.**

**PHOTOGRAPHS & LAYOUT: SHAY AMITAI
TEXT: AMA AMITAI**

**TEXT CONVERSATION: CIELA BUCUD, ZARRAZEL PEREZ RUPAC,
MERLINDA GUTIERREZ AND MYSELF, SHAY AMITAI**

**KASK, 2020
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