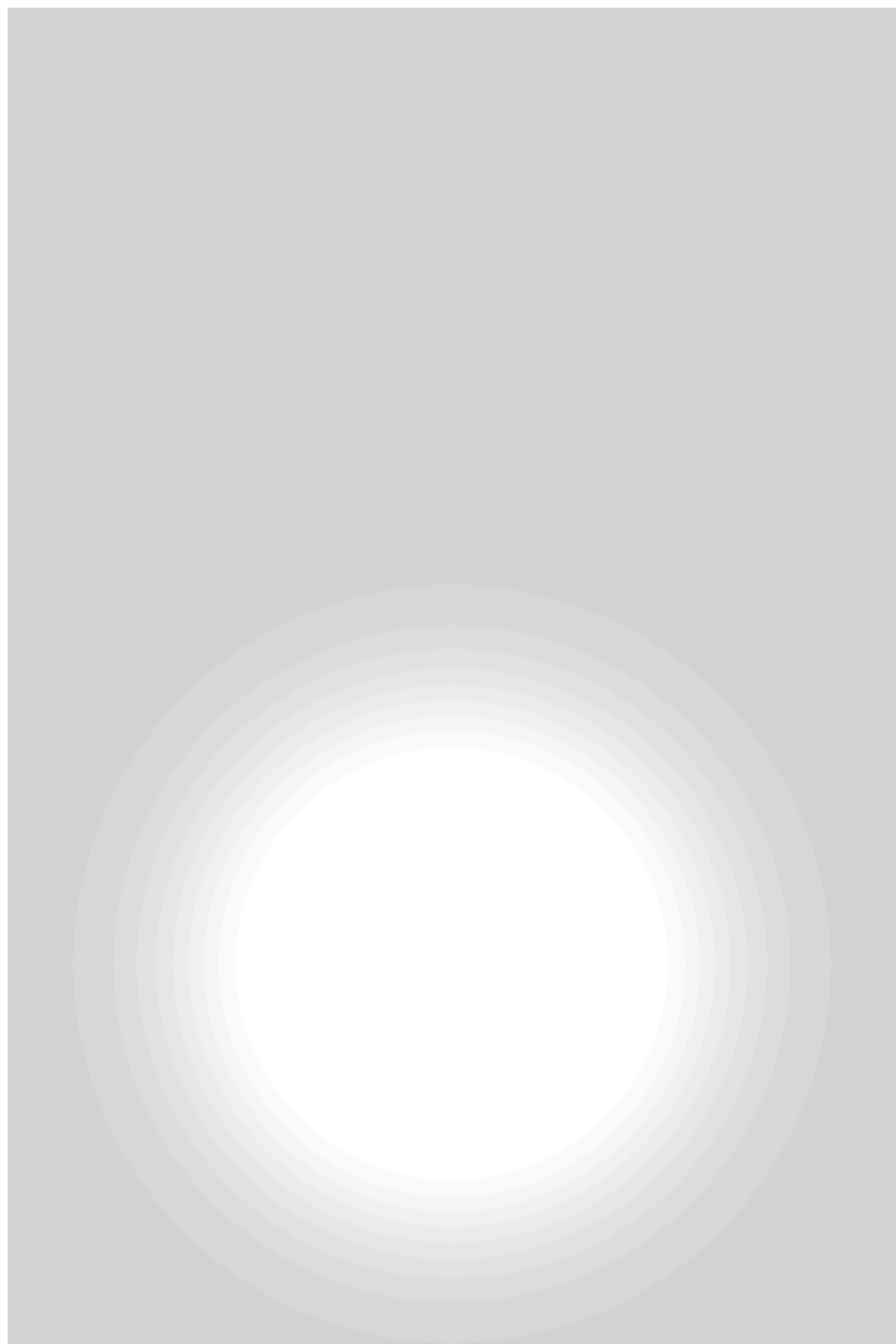


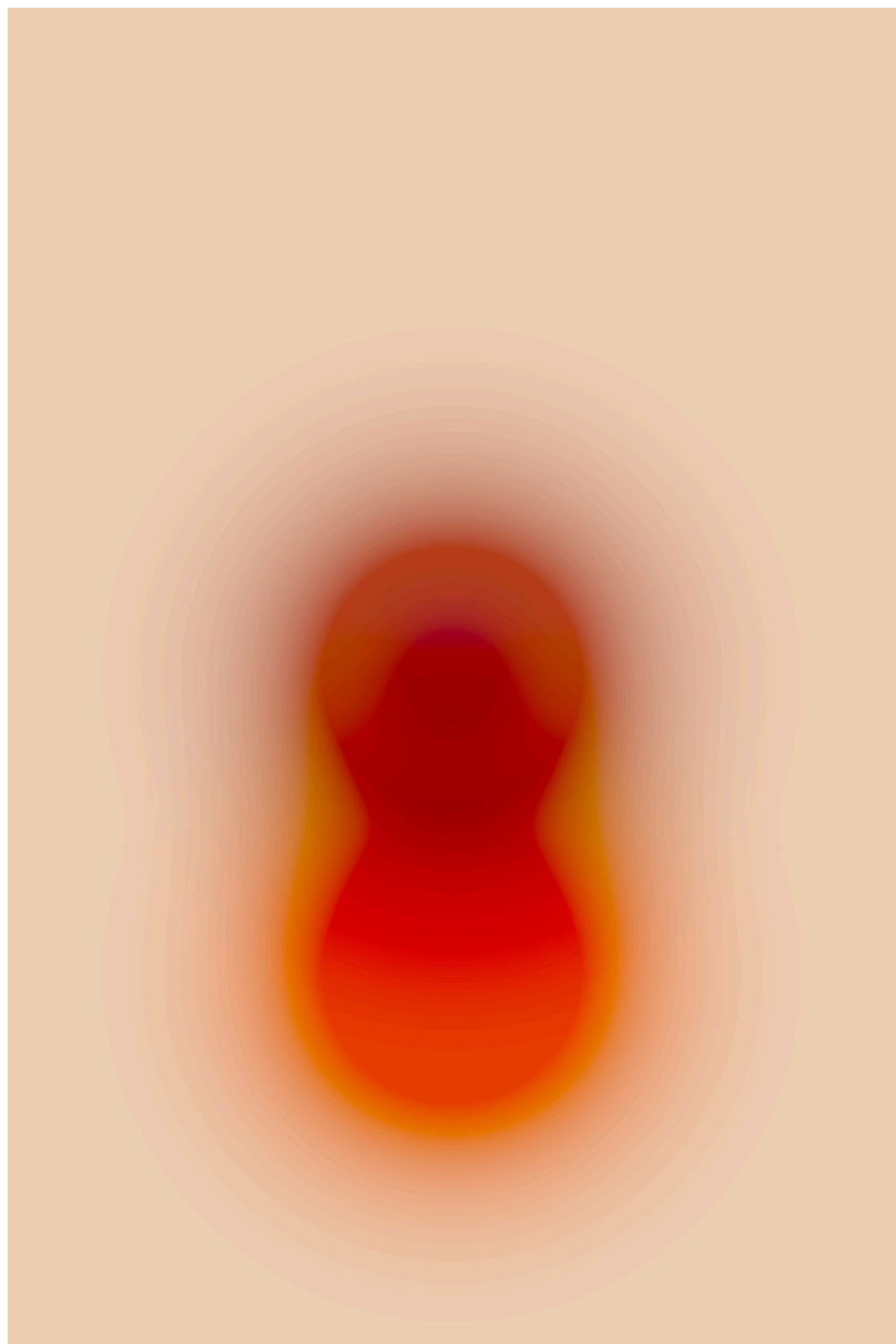


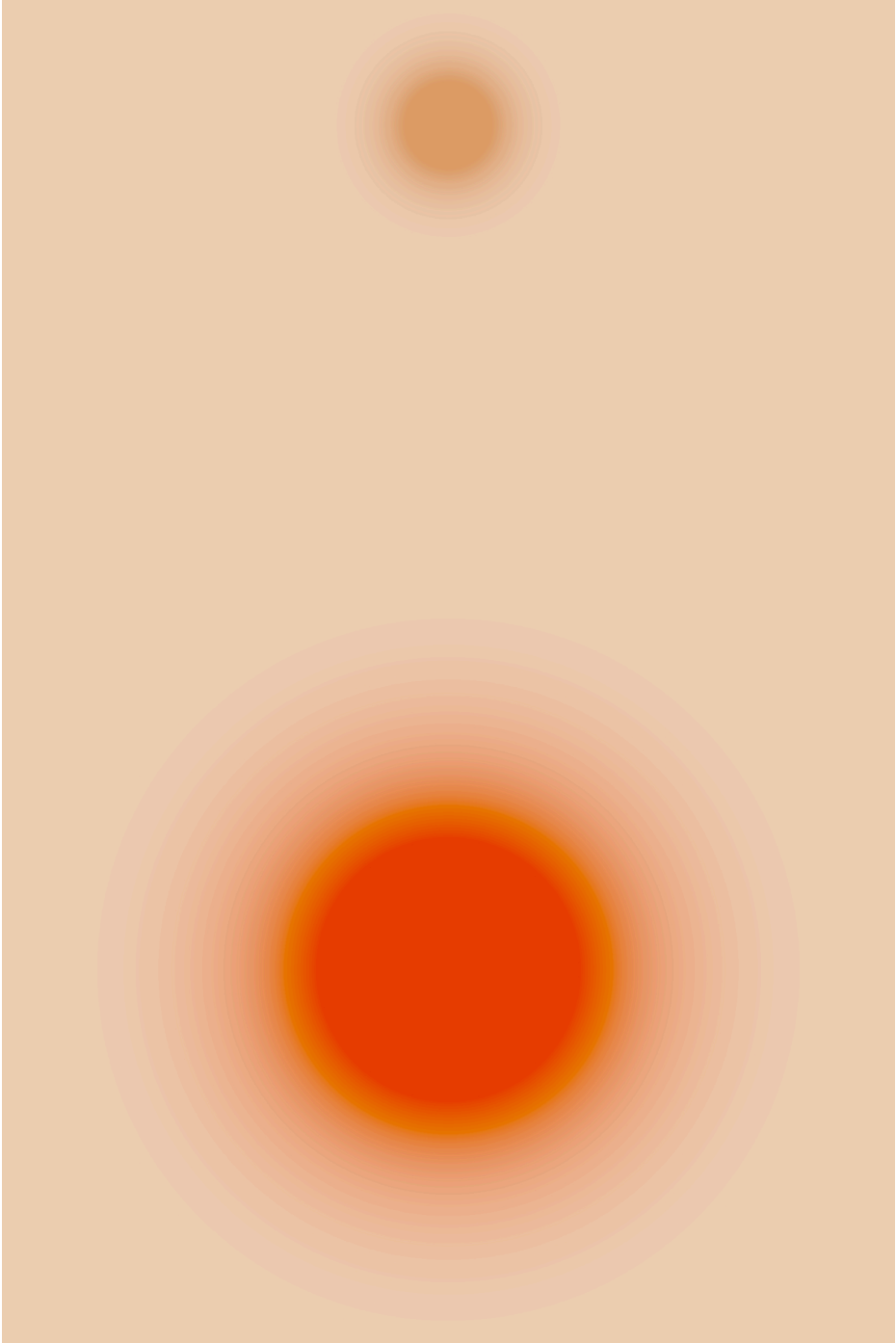
David C. Porter
Beneath the Lava



They spoke: twist the branches
into thy name and cast it upon
the fire ### build a new dark
house in the murmuring night ###
take the old blindness and etch
it into the walls ### make the
Light reveal its shape ### make
your body fall away ### let it
enter grey eternity ### a silence
carried on a raft of leaves ###
hovering on the water

#####





They spoke: come up from the
riverbed ### come up and draw a
doorway into the valley of dreary
fog ### wrap heavy fate around
you ### make a ward against the
dusk ### many nights promise no
tomorrow and many pathways lead
in circles ### many houses are
built on sand ### count the
flickers of the lamps along the
trail ### let the gardens go to
seed and the pastures overflow

#####



They spoke: cast a shadow upon
the edifice ### sketch the echoes
in the reeds ### watch the
insects draw their message on the
shore ### a still pool still
shimmers ### a betrayed traveler
betrays nothing ### under the
dark and hanging vines ### many
destinies have found themselves
turned to marks upon the
stone ### drawn by glinting
blades ### pulled from shadows in
the drifting sand

#####



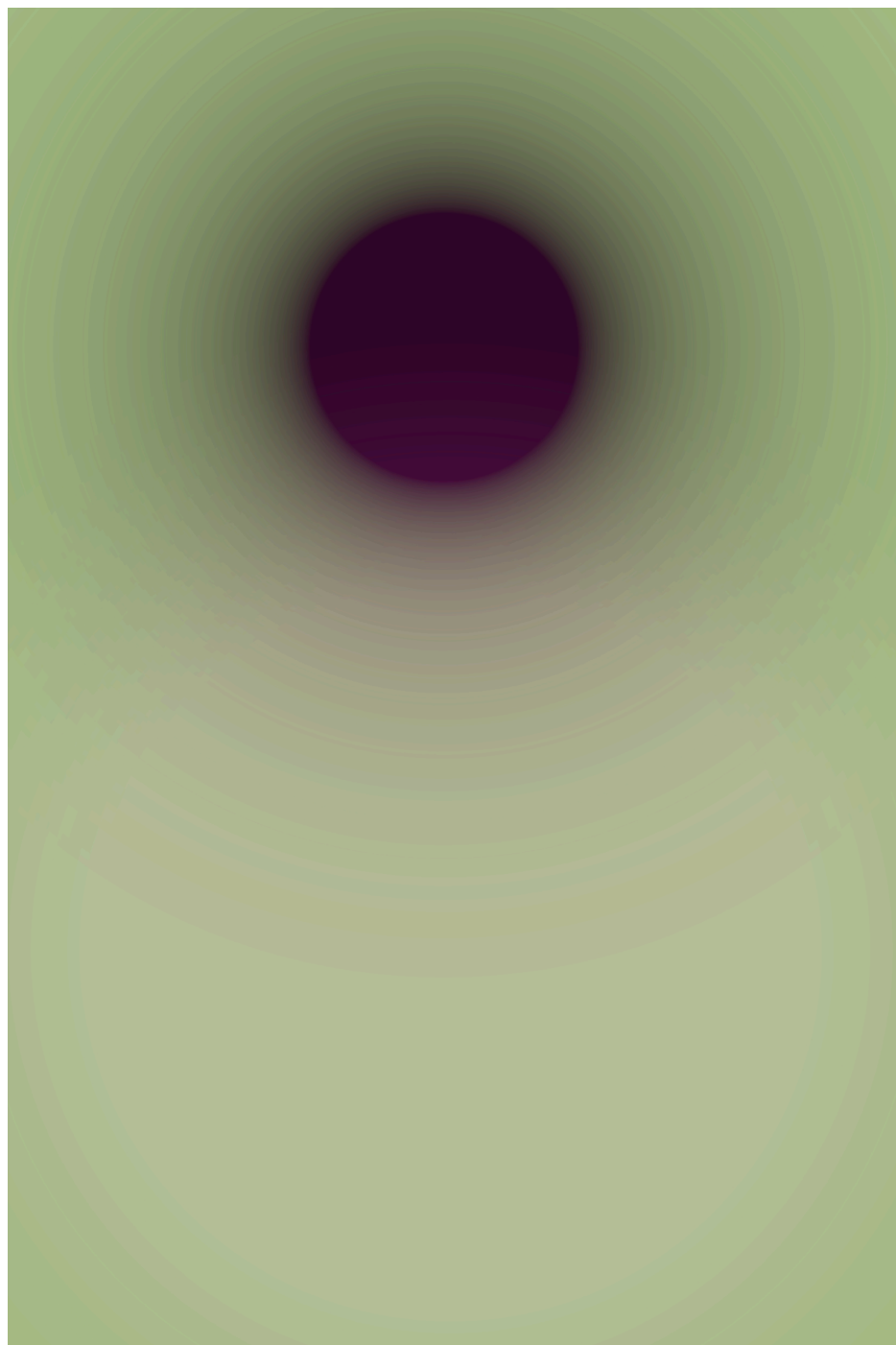
They spoke: split open ### fill
the basin with old and spent
desires ### cover them with birch
bark ### make a simple totem ###
watch the ravens build their
nests ### a basket of rotting
fruits and berries ### a bushel
of stale and mildewed grain ###
summer never comes ### the
fountain's mouth grinds open ###
bright and poisonous red

#####

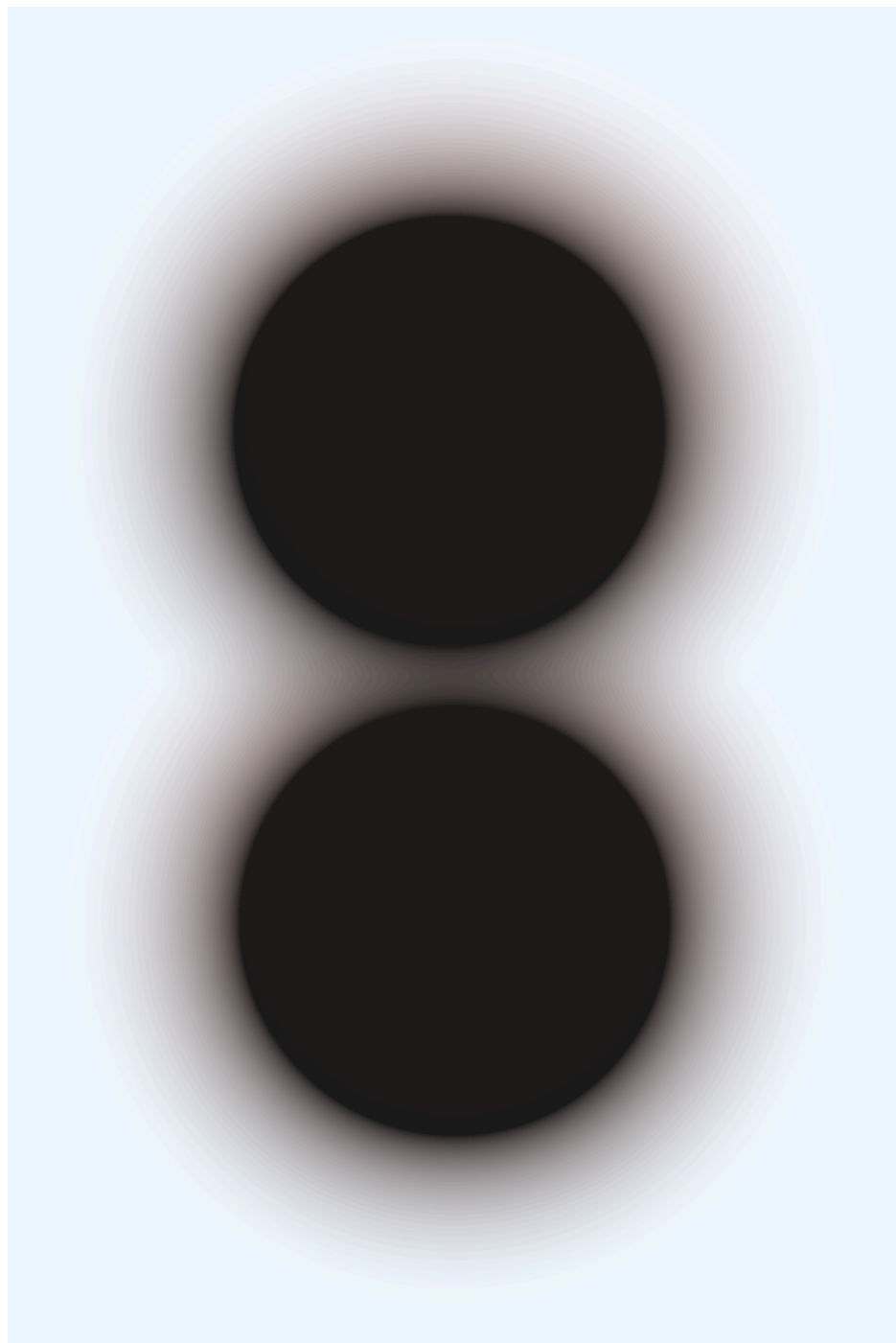


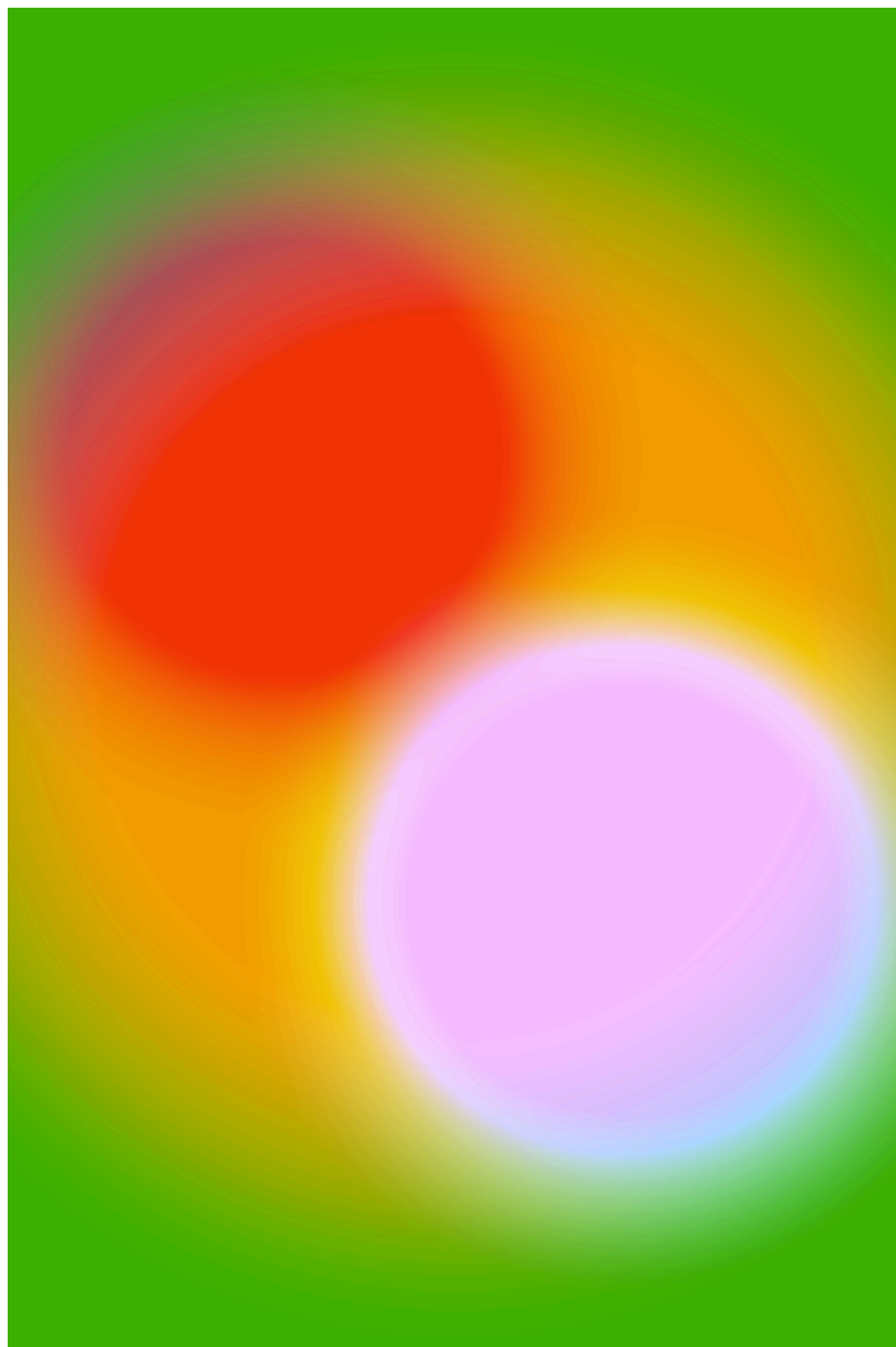
They spoke: walk to the sunken
clearing ### wash your feet among
the lilies ### scatter salt upon
the altar ### touch the fallow
face upon the rock ### feel the
marrow in your bones ### there
are thoughts that drain all
colors from the soul ### the
drowned all wander with hollow
eyes ### let the crows perch
above your bed ### and do not
answer when they call ### and do
not hear the timbre of their
c r i e s

#####









They spoke: weave a rope of
garlic stems ### bind your face
and hands ### beside a stream ###
behind a waterfall ### beneath a
cool spring ### carving tears in
black obsidian ### beyond the
northern hut ### weave a noose of
wildflowers ### for the traveler
on the lonely mountain path
climbing out of our history
and into the mists beyond ###
cloaked in swaying furs

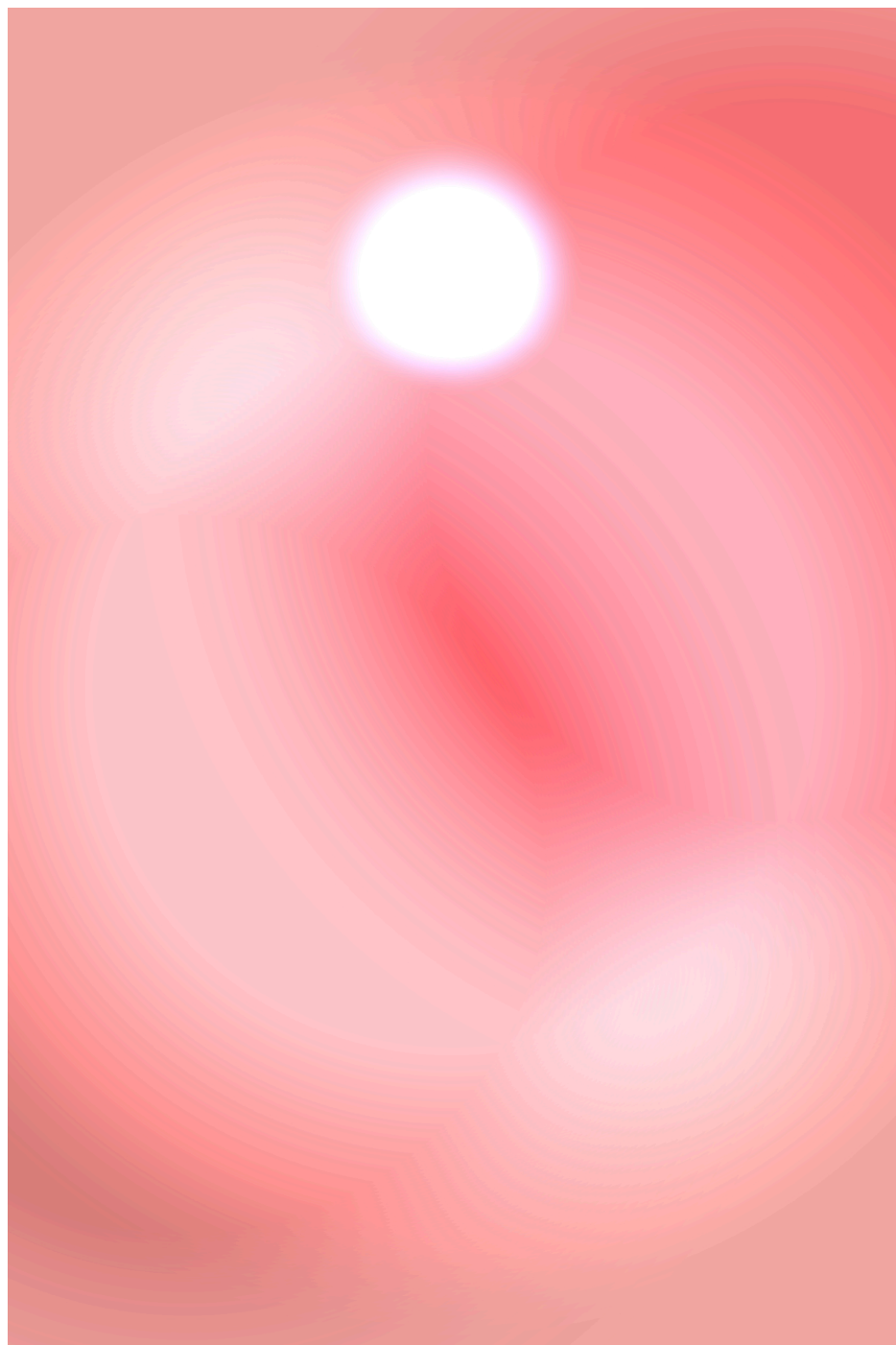
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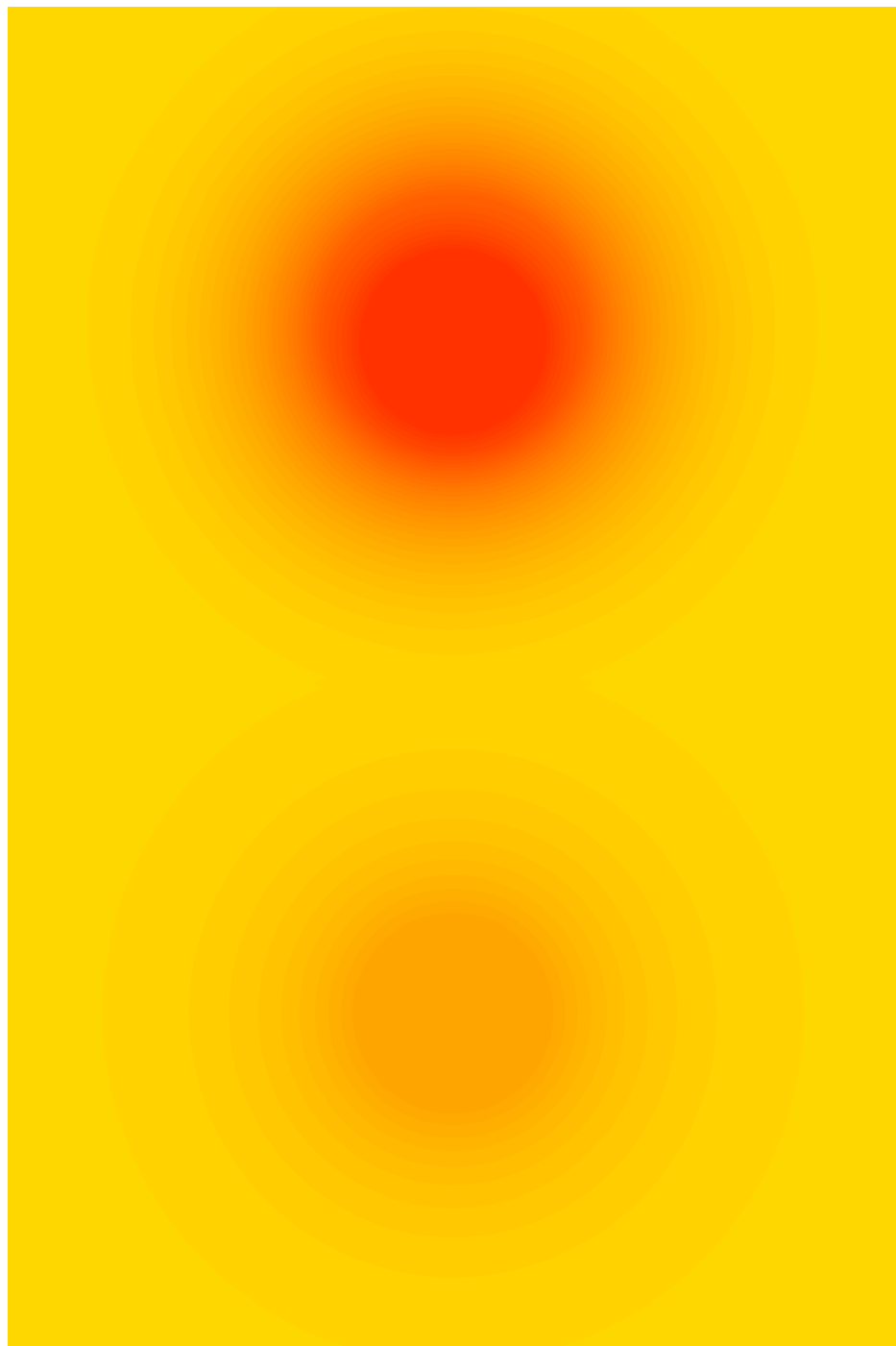
They spoke: let heat unmake
creation ### let each river's
current drag itself apart ### let
caverns sweat and grow ### let
the stars turn black ### there
are no angels and no devils ###
there are many suns within the
earth ### a spear can always
finds its target ### a beaver
will build its dam across a
warrior's grave ### a forest has
no center

#####



They spoke: a crown of roses ###
a rough clay bowl filled with
quicksilver ### a shadow passing
under the door ### the moon
sinking into the lake ### icy and
still ### make a home with no
windows ### wear the crimson
robes ### light each candle at
the hearth ### beyond the valley
beyond the earth ### shadows
drip and bleed into endless
glowing pools ### and stare at
you forever from the mists

#####



the 1990s, the number of people in the world who are undernourished has increased from 600 million to 800 million (FAO 2001).

There are a number of reasons for this increase. First, the world population has increased from 5 billion in 1987 to 6 billion in 2000, and is projected to reach 9 billion by 2050 (UN 2000). Second, the world population is becoming increasingly urban, and urban populations are growing faster than rural populations (UN 2000). Third, the world population is becoming increasingly aged, and the number of people aged 65 and over is projected to increase from 200 million in 1990 to 600 million in 2050 (UN 2000).

Fourth, the world population is becoming increasingly diverse, and the number of people who are undernourished is increasing in many of the world's poorest countries (FAO 2001). Fifth, the world population is becoming increasingly mobile, and the number of people who are undernourished is increasing in many of the world's poorest countries (FAO 2001).

Sixth, the world population is becoming increasingly dependent on food imports, and the number of people who are undernourished is increasing in many of the world's poorest countries (FAO 2001). Seventh, the world population is becoming increasingly dependent on food aid, and the number of people who are undernourished is increasing in many of the world's poorest countries (FAO 2001).

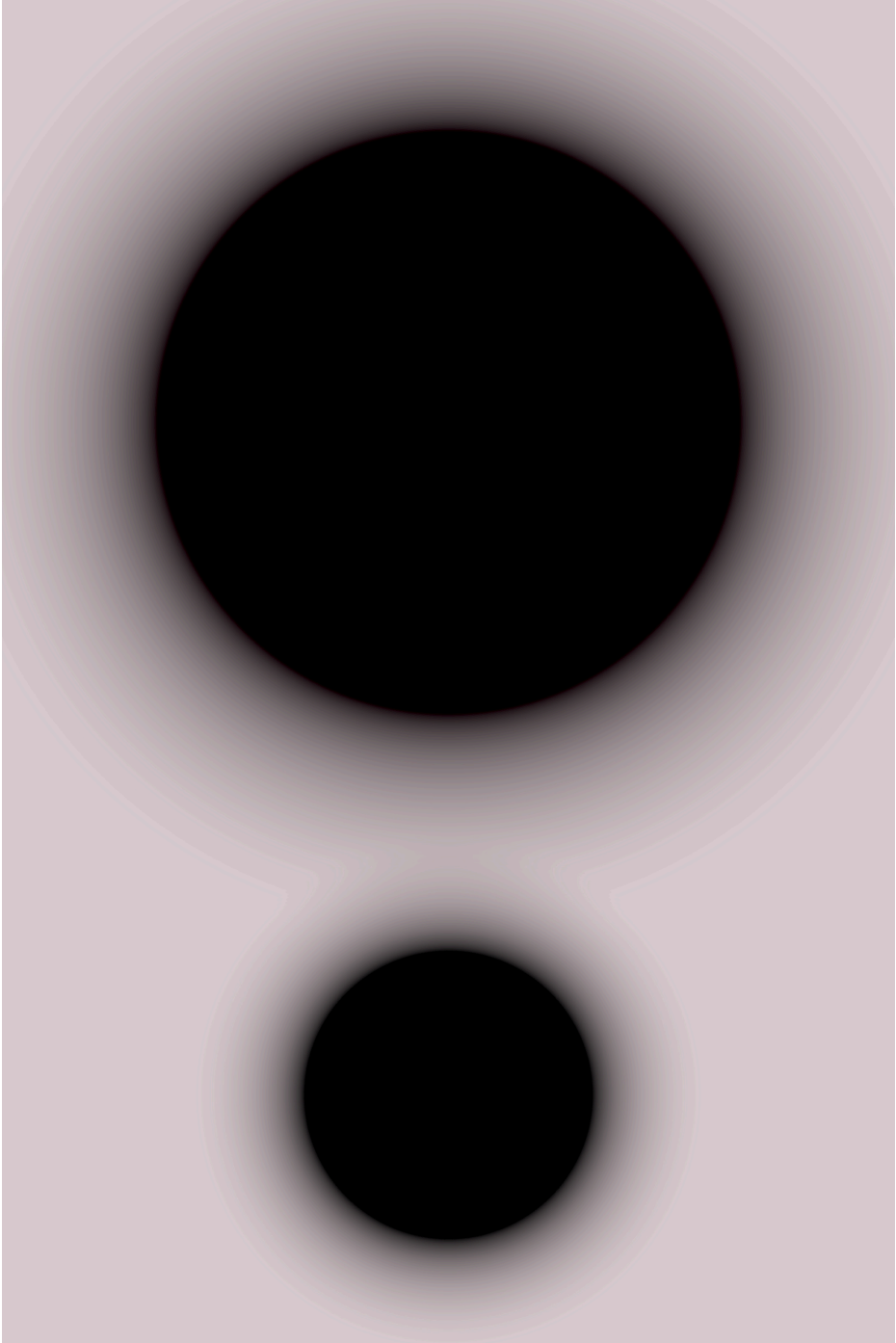
Eighth, the world population is becoming increasingly dependent on food aid, and the number of people who are undernourished is increasing in many of the world's poorest countries (FAO 2001). Ninth, the world population is becoming increasingly dependent on food aid, and the number of people who are undernourished is increasing in many of the world's poorest countries (FAO 2001).

Tenth, the world population is becoming increasingly dependent on food aid, and the number of people who are undernourished is increasing in many of the world's poorest countries (FAO 2001). Eleventh, the world population is becoming increasingly dependent on food aid, and the number of people who are undernourished is increasing in many of the world's poorest countries (FAO 2001).

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Sixteenth, the world population is becoming increasingly dependent on food aid, and the number of people who are undernourished is increasing in many of the world's poorest countries (FAO 2001). Seventeenth, the world population is becoming increasingly dependent on food aid, and the number of people who are undernourished is increasing in many of the world's poorest countries (FAO 2001).



They spoke: forget ### steam
rising from the snow ### a figure
on the ridge ### the bones on the
innkeeper's wall ### the goblet
filled with honey ### the road
like a scar upon the hill ### the
rattle of loose teeth ### the
shape in the stone ### the lambs
on the high cliff ### the night
the whisper ### the Color ###
the hole in the earth ### the way
back ### let the old blindness
swallow you ### drift away

#####

