

SIGNS OF MAGIC: THE PRESENT LIFE OF THE VAGHRI, NOMADS IN INDIA

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India has undergone drastic social change since entering a market economy in the 1990s. The effects of this change have resulted in a growing belief in magic and in practices that go beyond castes and classes. A nomadic people, called the Vaghri, in South India are no exception; they remain distant from the local Tamil population, whose religious practices involve magic. When they first started to become settled and exposed to a market economy, they began to adopt the Tamil gods, especially with regard to magic. This film attempts to present a widespread belief in magic and some of its practices among Tamils, as well as the initial appearance of these features in Vaghri society. The film focuses on various discourses and traces relating to magic that mediate the idea of the present life of a people undergoing social change.

This film had its premier at the 40th Annual Meeting of the Japanese Society of Cultural Anthropology in 2006.

Duration: 18 min, **Medium:** DV, **Year:** 2006, **Location:** Tamil Nadu, India

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