

A LENSMAN'S VIEW OF THE WORLD

# Christopher Roche explores different faiths by highlighting the common humanity shared by believers.

The Canadian photographer's work explores ancient religious traditions that are threatened by factors such as globalisation and climate change. Roche – who has lived in Africa and Europe, and now resides in London – has published two photographic books on this theme. His images have been exhibited at the Royal Geographical Society in London and the United Nations office in Geneva. The award-winning lensman is inspired by artists such as Rembrandt and Caravaggio, and this is reflected in his painterly and cinematic photographs.

**TIGRAY, ETHIOPIA**  
Having researched the sun's trajectory, I scaled a cliff and found the priest of a hidden cave church. I encouraged him to ignore me, and caught this relaxed portrait of him, even though we were both on the edge of a precipice.



**TAYANCANI, PERU**

Having trekked alongside thousands of pilgrims through a wintry night at high altitude, I was rewarded with a sun-greeting ceremony at dawn. I positioned myself so I could capture the pilgrims' descent from the mountains.



**SINAQARA, PERU**

High in the Andes, pilgrims known as ukuku dressed in costume and engaged in a contest using whips. I got down low and used a wide-angle lens to reveal the musicians, spectators and mountains in the background.



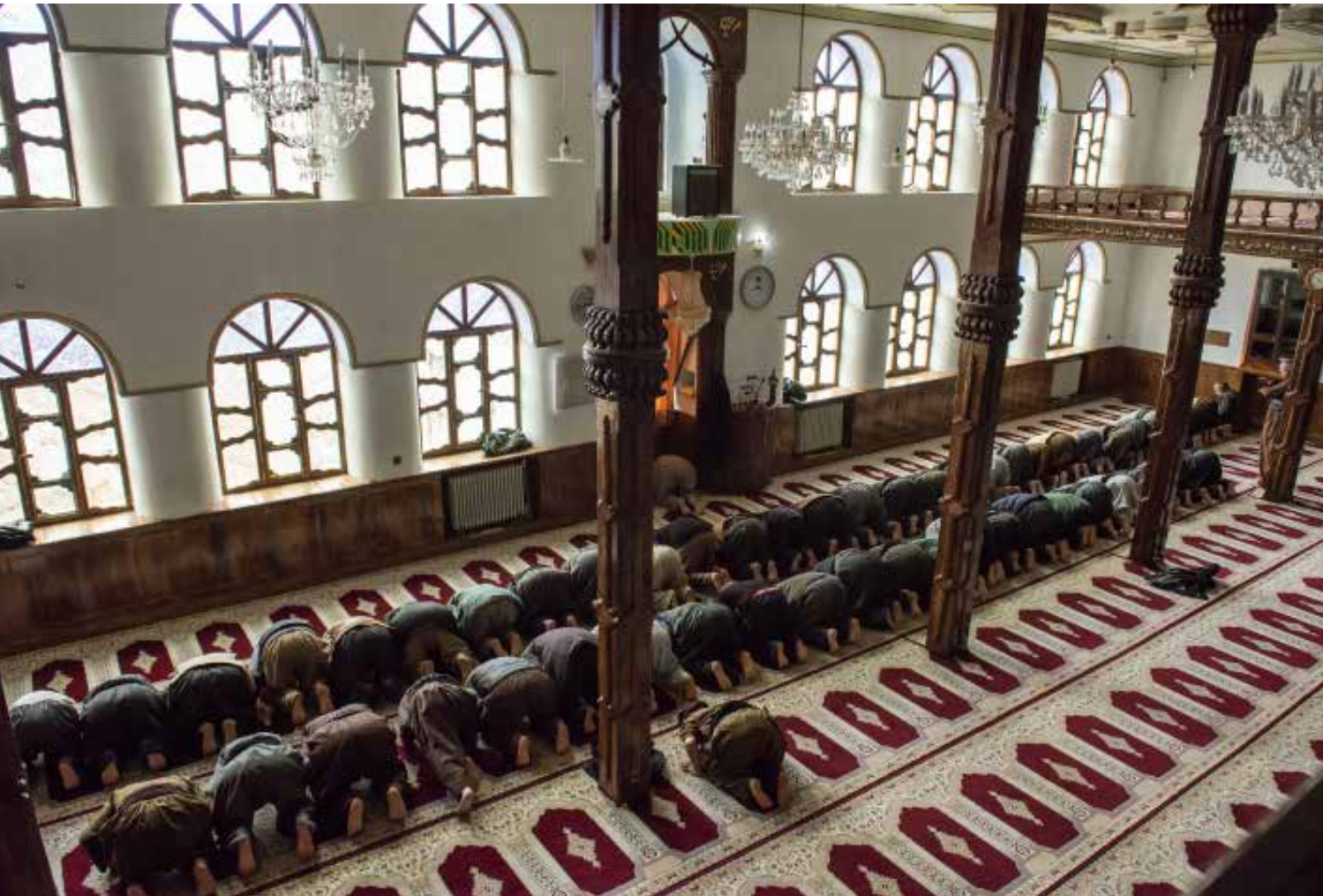
**VARANASI, INDIA**

Having spent months here, I got to know some of the sadhu (holy men) well. I wanted to evoke a sense of their spirituality, so I used a shallow depth of field to separate him from the background and his earthly realm.



**VARANASI, INDIA**

It is especially auspicious to bathe in the Ganges River, as it's said to wash away people's sins. I used a long depth of field to capture a sense of the crowd and all of its activity.



**KURDISTAN, IRAN**

The mountain villagers here practise Salah, an Islamic prayer. Using a wide-angle lens, I shot this from above to evoke the uplifting nature of the mosque, with its space and light.



**KURDISTAN, IRAN**

In the heart of winter, dervishes from mountain villages congregated to celebrate the marriage of an ancient mystic. I got as close as possible to capture the intimacy, and used a fast shutter speed to freeze the movement of their hair.