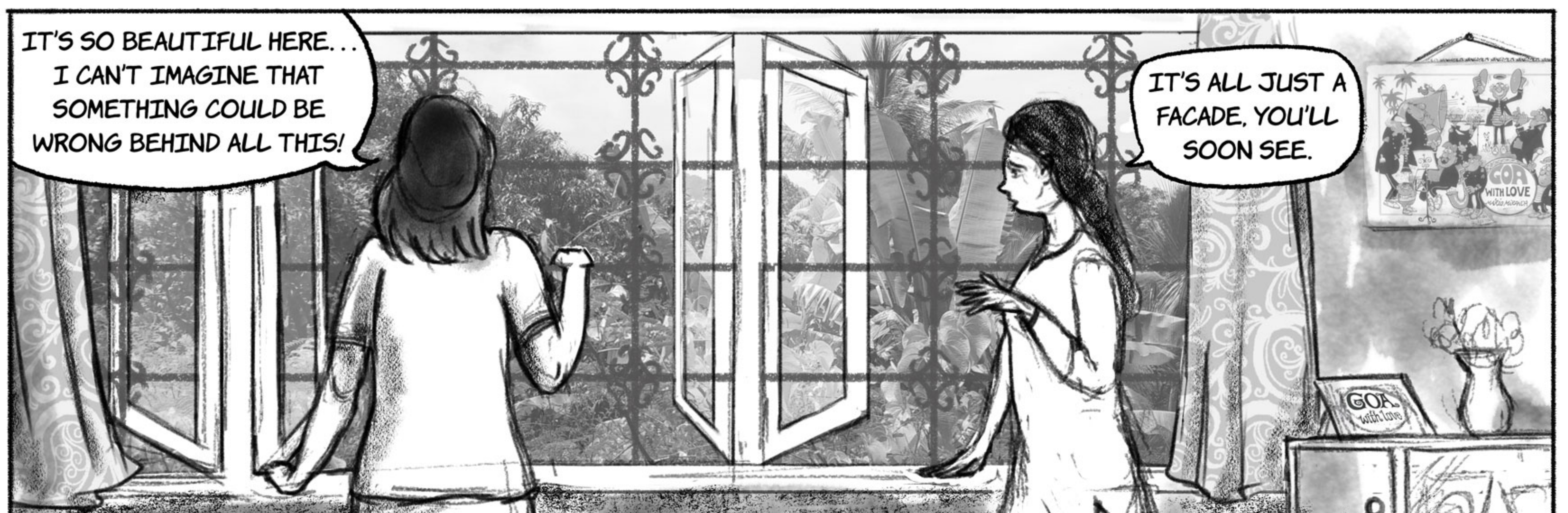
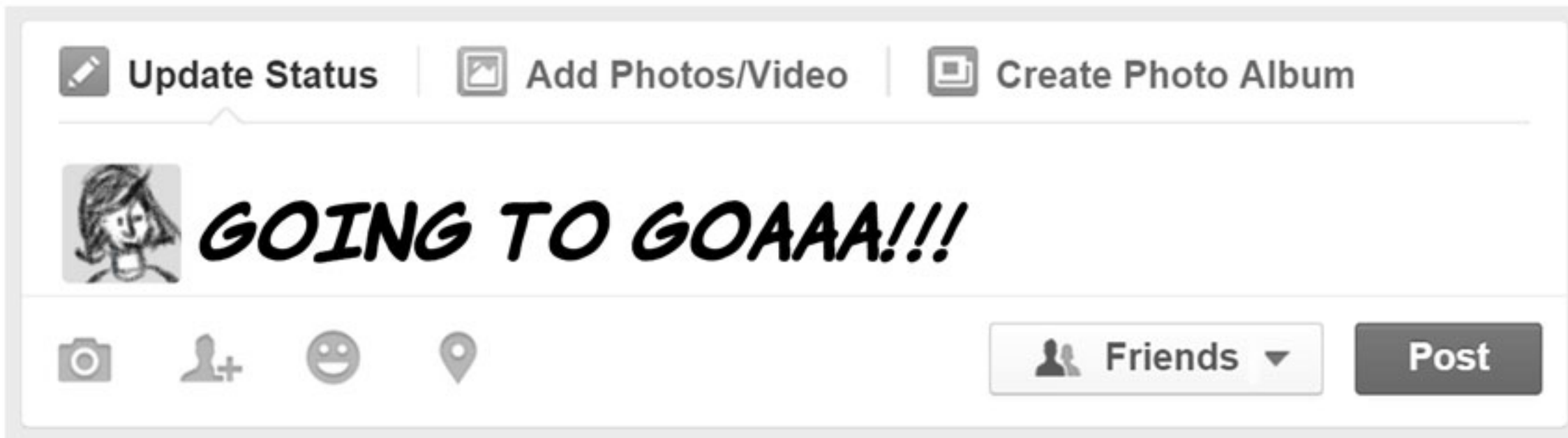
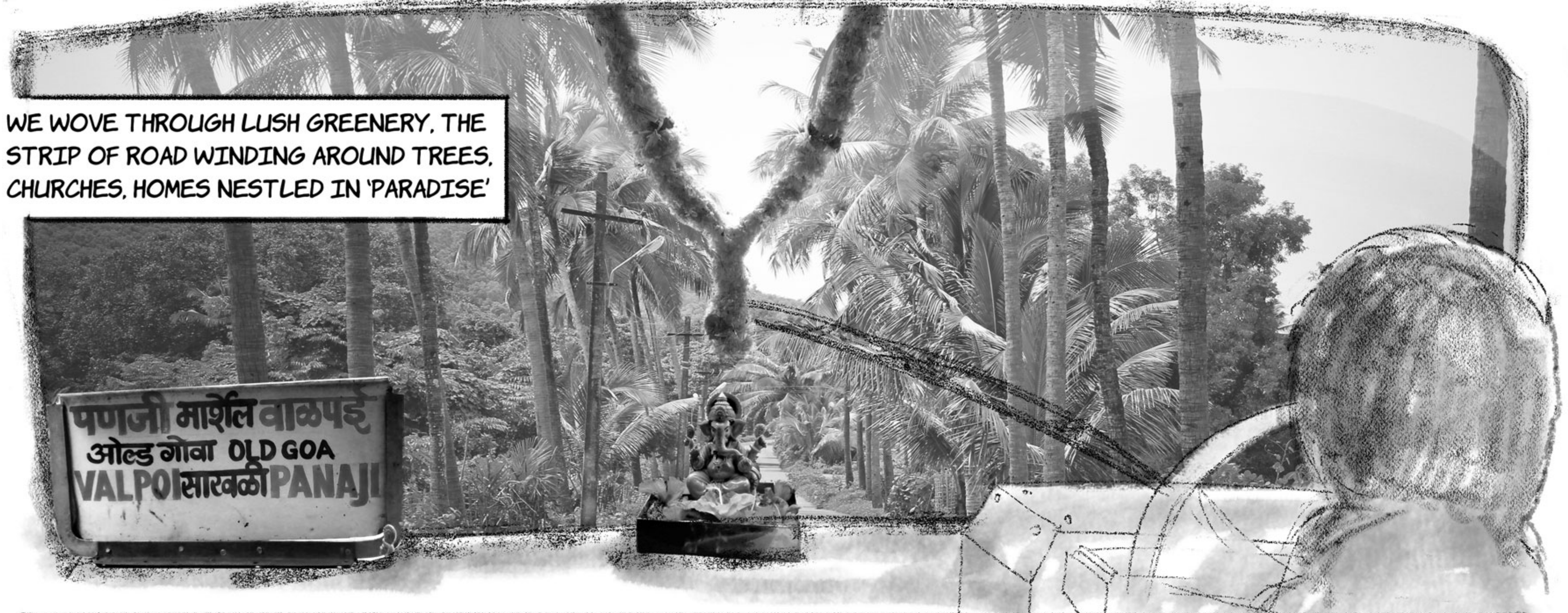


Spring Waters

FROM THE HEART OF GOA

BY RAMYA RAMAKRISHNAN

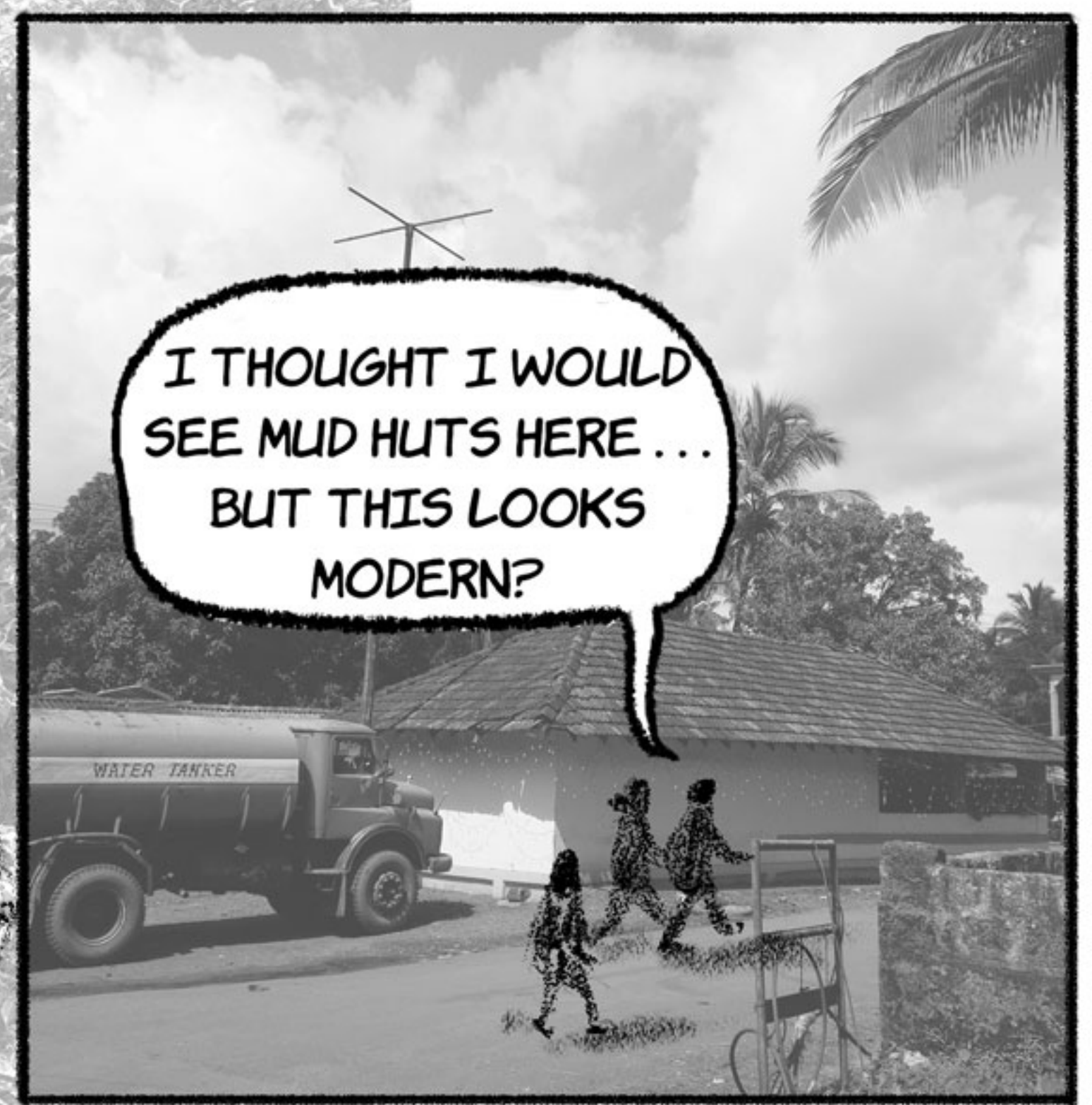




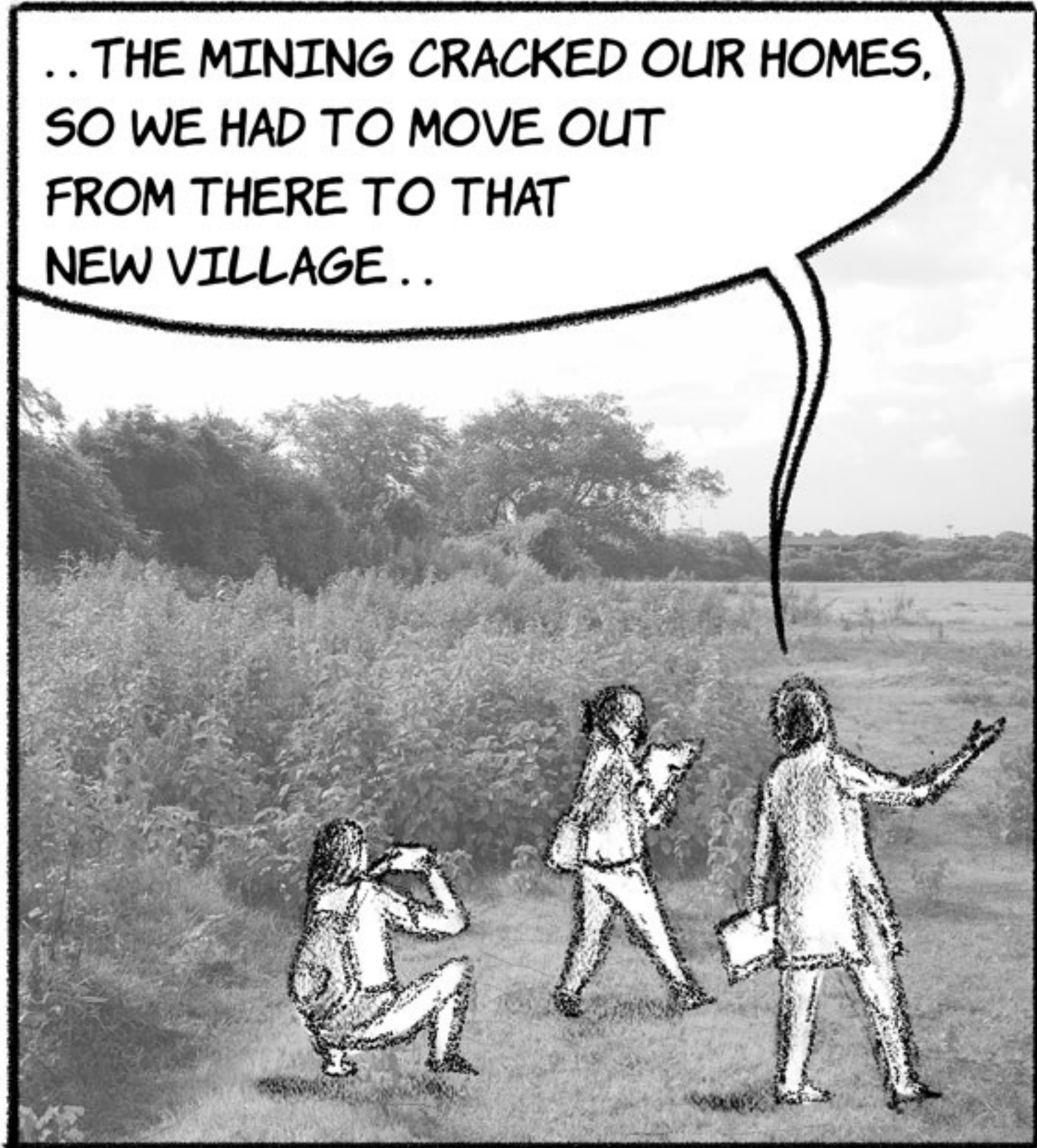


WE MET HANUMANT AT PISSURLEM, A LOCAL WHO VOLUNTEERED TO SHOW US AROUND THE VILLAGE AND THE MINE.

LET'S GO TO OLD PISSURLEM, WHERE OUR VILLAGE USED TO BE.



I THOUGHT I WOULD SEE MUD HUTS HERE... BUT THIS LOOKS MODERN?



.. THE MINING CRACKED OUR HOMES, SO WE HAD TO MOVE OUT FROM THERE TO THAT NEW VILLAGE ..



AND ALL THE PADDY FIELDS ARE GONE?!

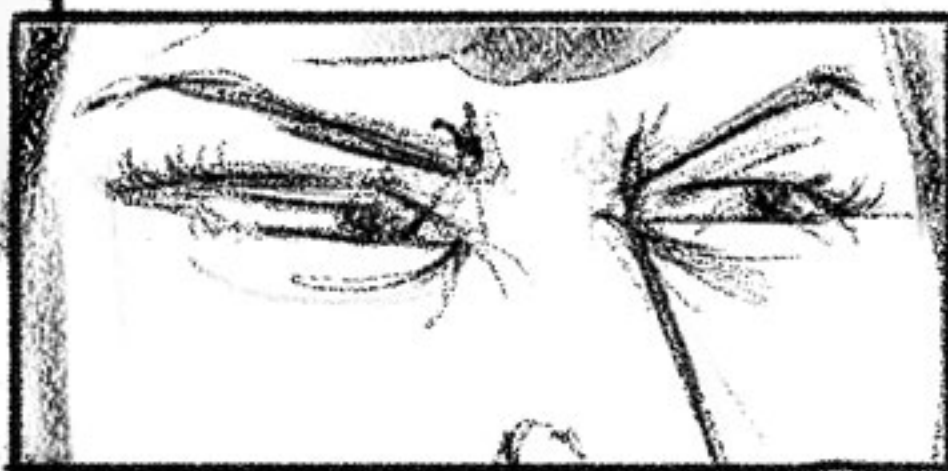


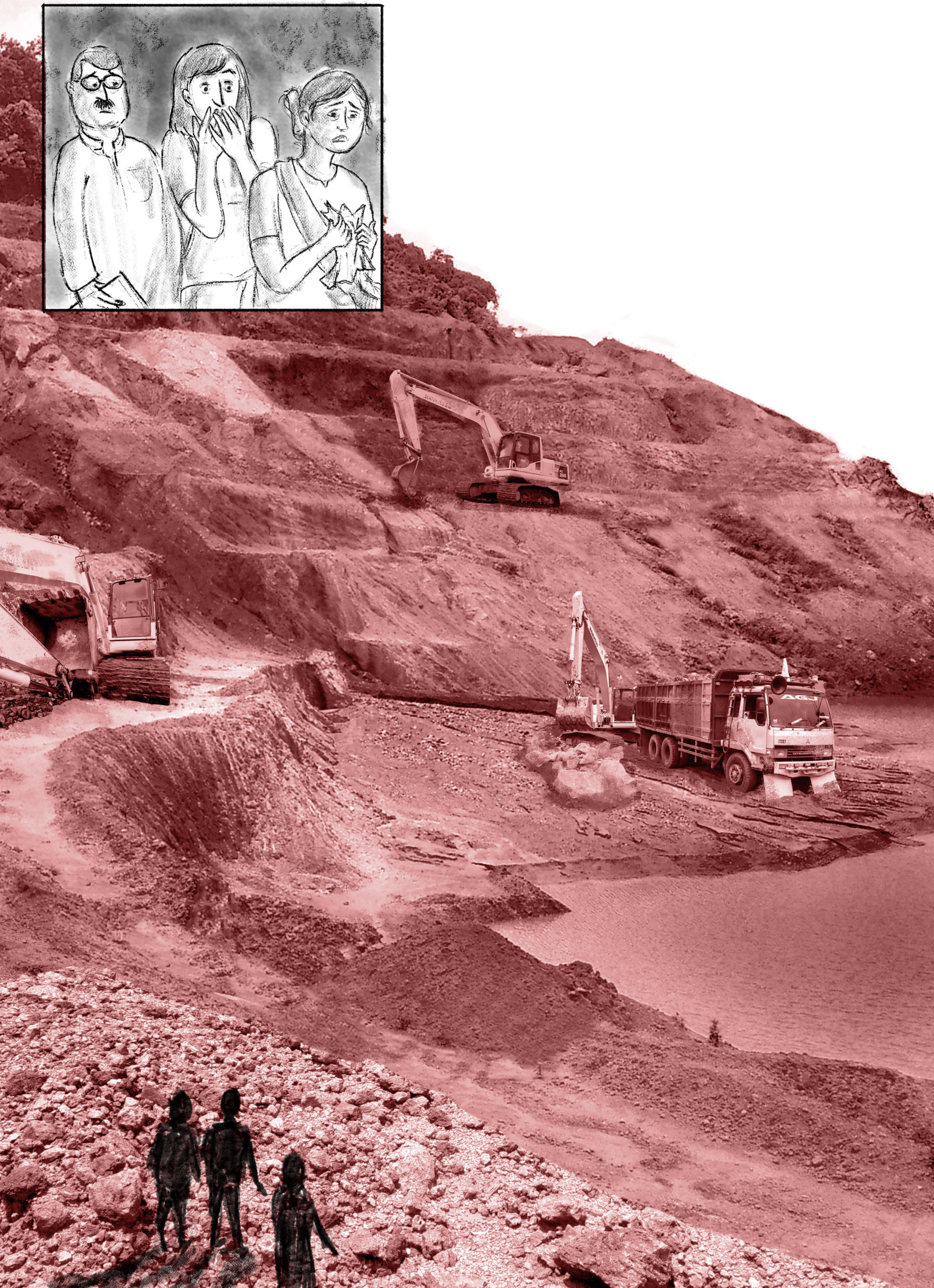
EVERYTHING LOOKS SO GREEN THOUGH!

THAT IS JUST THE MONSOON AND WILD PLANTS. IT CAN'T BE USED FOR CULTIVATION!



WE'RE ALMOST THERE NOW ..





THE STORY WAS THE SAME
ACROSS MOST OF THE
MINING AREAS.

THE VILLAGERS WERE
DISPLACED AND DUPED

CREATURES WERE DISTURBED
AND DRIVEN AWAY

LACK OF WATER AND DUST
RAISED BY MINING WAS
RUINING THE CROPS.

THE AIR AND NOISE
POLLUTION FROM THE
MINING ACTIVITIES
ENDANGERED THE LIVES OF
THE PEOPLE.

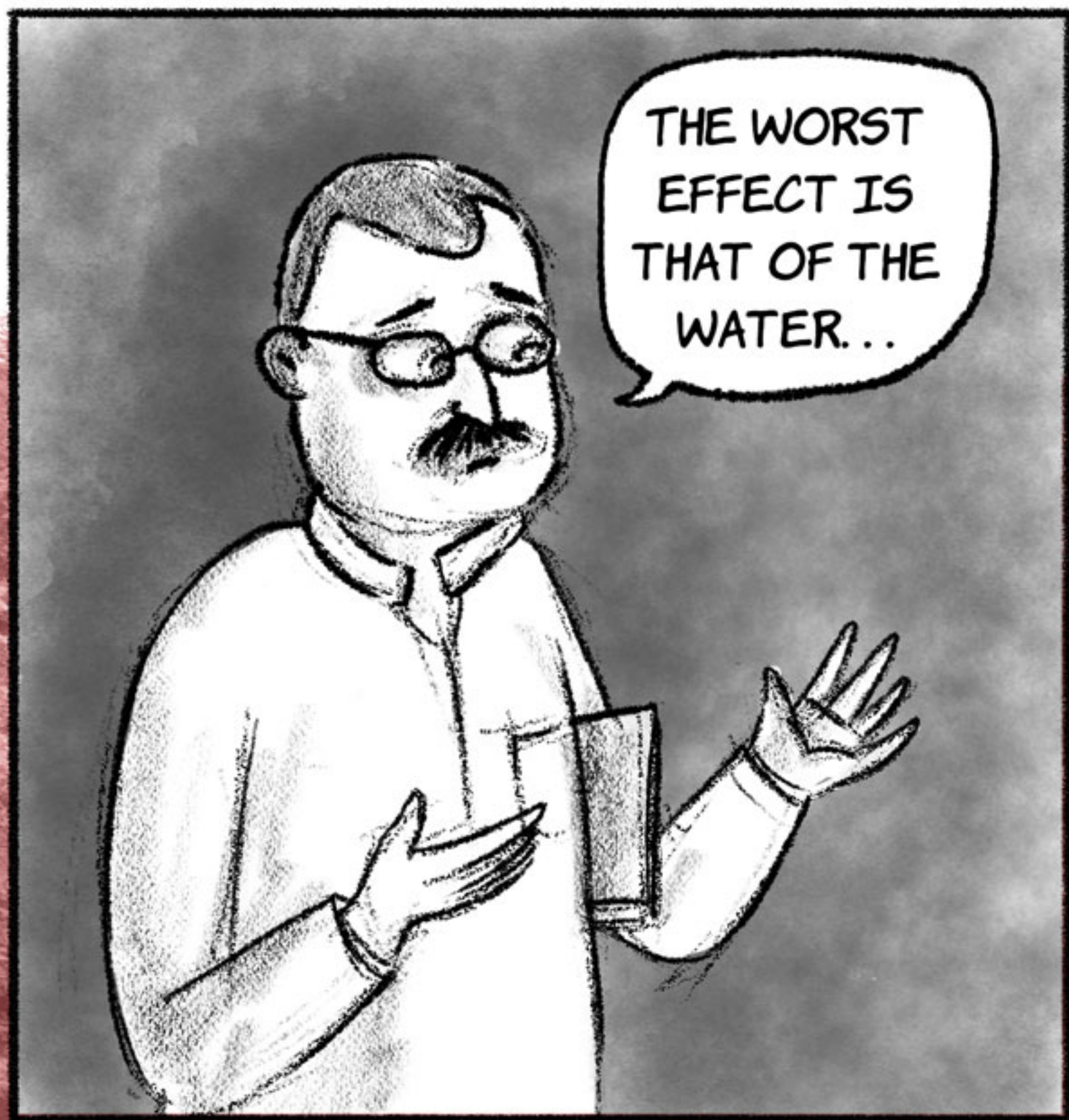
THE SOMETIMES-MISLEADING
DOCUMENTS GAVE 'OFFICIAL
SANCTION' FOR MINING TO
PROCEED UNCHECKED, FOR
EXPLOITATION & POLLUTION

MINE REJECTS AND WASTE WERE
DUMPED INDISCRIMINATELY,
RUINING OTHER FERTILE
LAND AS WELL

THE TROPICAL PARADISE WAS
BEING TRANSFORMED INTO A
POCK-MARKED MUTATION, LEAVING
GAPING HOLES IN THE LAND AND IN
THE LIVES OF THOSE WHO
ORIGINALLY LIVED THERE ...

MISSISSIPPI
[APPROVED]
PERMISSION

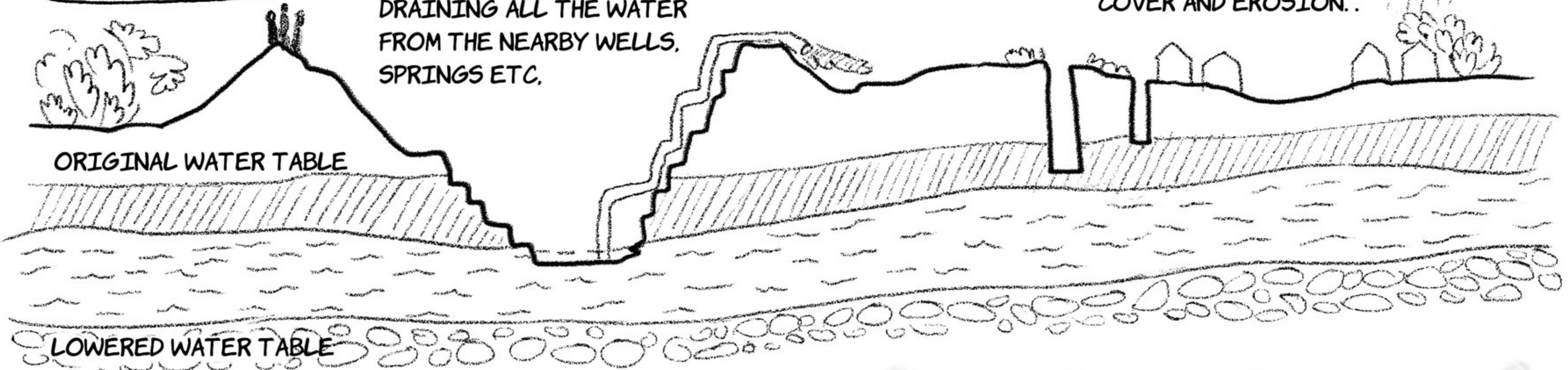
PERMIT
[GRANTED]



JUST AN ILLUSION. THE MINE PIT IS SO DEEP THAT IT GOES BELOW THE ORIGINAL WATER TABLE...

..LOWERING IT AND DRAINING ALL THE WATER FROM THE NEARBY WELLS, SPRINGS ETC.

..MONSOON RAINS NO LONGER GET TRAPPED IN THE LAND AS EFFECTIVELY DUE TO LOSS OF THE TREE COVER AND EROSION..



TO MINE FURTHER, THEY HAVE TO GET RID OF THE WATER: IT IS PUMPED OUT, ITS TOO FULL OF SILT, SLIME AND CAN'T BE USED FOR ANYTHING!

