

THE STORY OF ELI

A GRAPHIC NOVEL BY THE ILLUSTRATED CLIMATE PROJECT,
WITH ARTWORK BY CARYS BOUGHTON



Illustrated
Climate



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



ERASMUS+ PROJECT: ELI – ENVIRONMENTAL LEARNING ILLUSTRATED
(ILLUSTRATED CLIMATE)
AGREEMENT NUMBER: 2017-1-UK01-KA204-036748
PROJECT COORDINATOR: THE SUREFOOT EFFECT, CIC, 1 BALGONIE WOODS,
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STORY DEVELOPED IN COOPERATION WITH THE WIDER PROJECT TEAM AT A
PROJECT WORKSHOP IN TURIN, ITALY
ILLUSTRATIONS & LAYOUT: CARYS BOUGHTON, UK, WWW.CARYSBOUGHTON.COM



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ENVIRONMENTAL LEARNING ILLUSTRATED.
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THIS PROJECT HAS BEEN FUNDED WITH SUPPORT FROM THE EUROPEAN
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IT'S A CRAZY WORLD WHERE I, A CHILD, HAVE TO TEACH THE ADULTS.



YEAR 3070. HUMANKIND IS SCATTERED IN NOMAD COLONIES ACROSS THE GALAXY.

THEY HAD TO LEAVE EARTH 1000 YEARS AGO AS THE PLANET COULD NO LONGER SATISFY SUCH A...



... FAST GROWING AND GREEDY SPECIES.



WHILE MOST PEOPLE HAVE FORGOTTEN OUR PAST, I REMEMBER.

I DON'T KNOW HOW, BUT I DO.

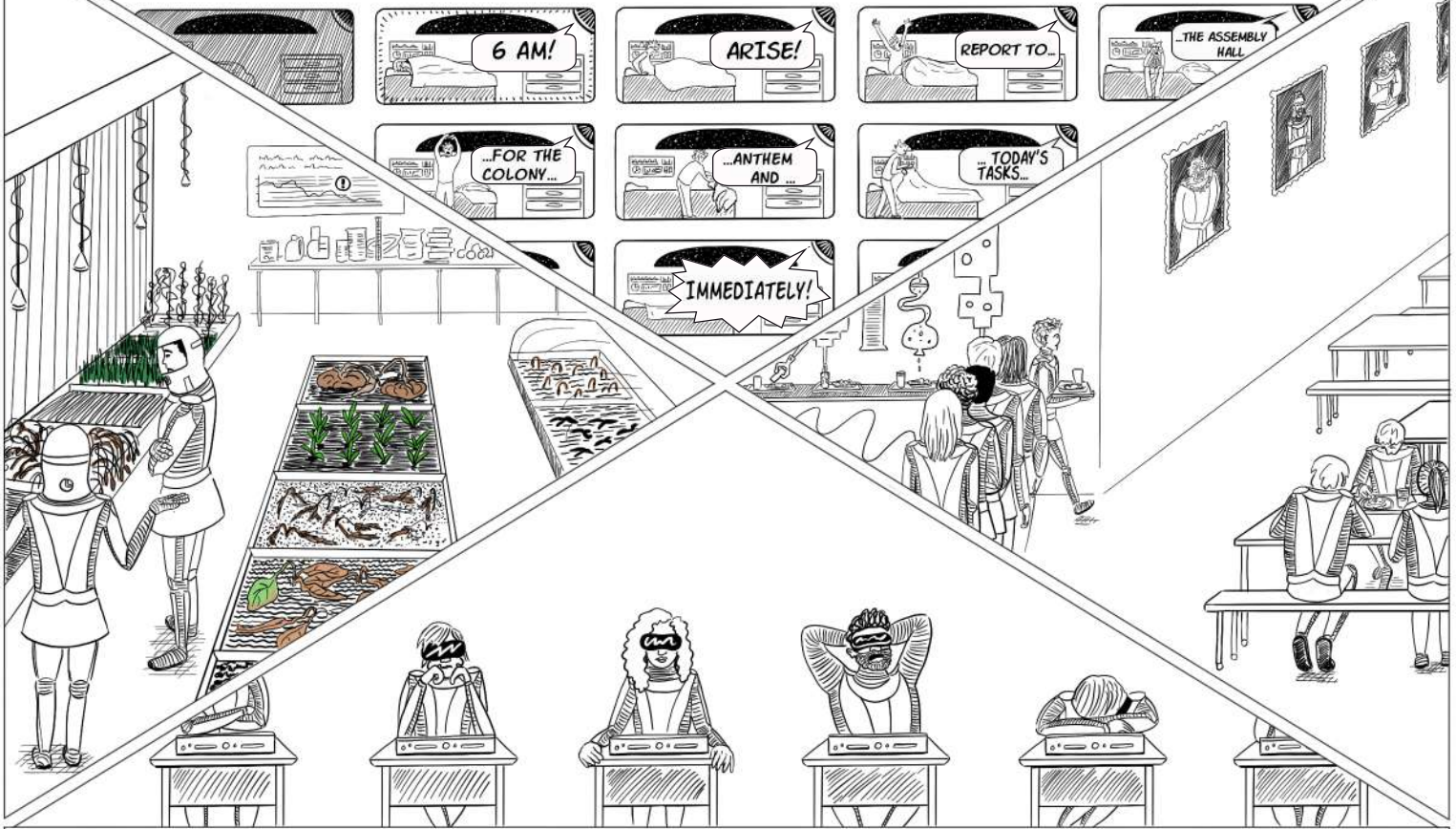


THIS IS MY STORY:



THE STORY OF HOW HUMANKIND LEARNED TO LIVE IN HARMONY WITH THE ENVIRONMENT.

GROWING UP IN A COLONY, LIFE IS DIFFERENT.



OUR COLONY CONSISTS OF ABOUT 250 PEOPLE, LIVING IN THIS SPACECRAFT BUILT FOR A FEW THOUSAND PEOPLE BACK IN 2070 WHEN HUMANS LEFT EARTH.



SAM IS CONVINCED THAT I AM SPECIAL BECAUSE MY EYES - ONE BLUE AND ONE GREEN - RESEMBLE THE PICTURES OF EARTH IN OUR E-LEARNING PROGRAMMES...



... UNTIL I HAD THIS MOST INCREDIBLE DREAM.



HAVE YOU EVER HEARD THE BIRDS SINGING IN THE TREES...?



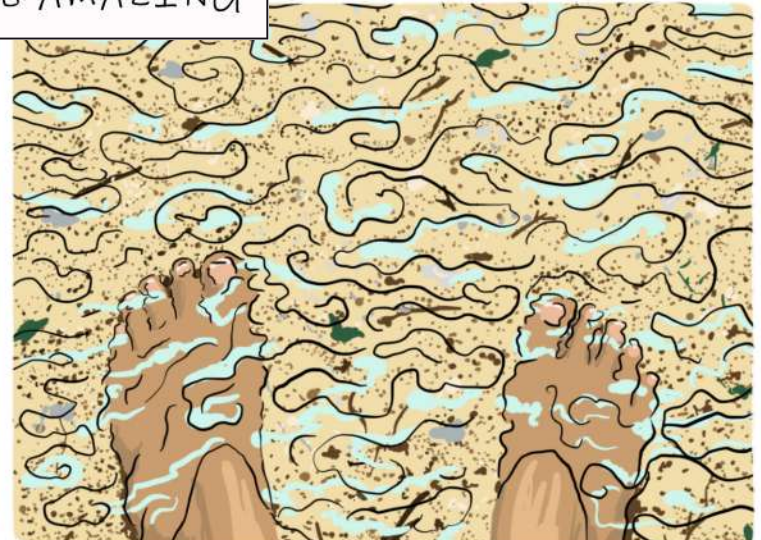
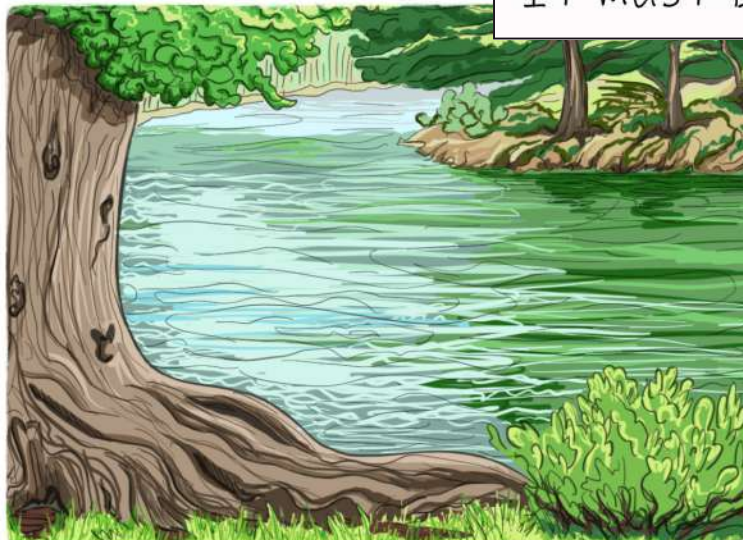
... THE BEES BUZZING?



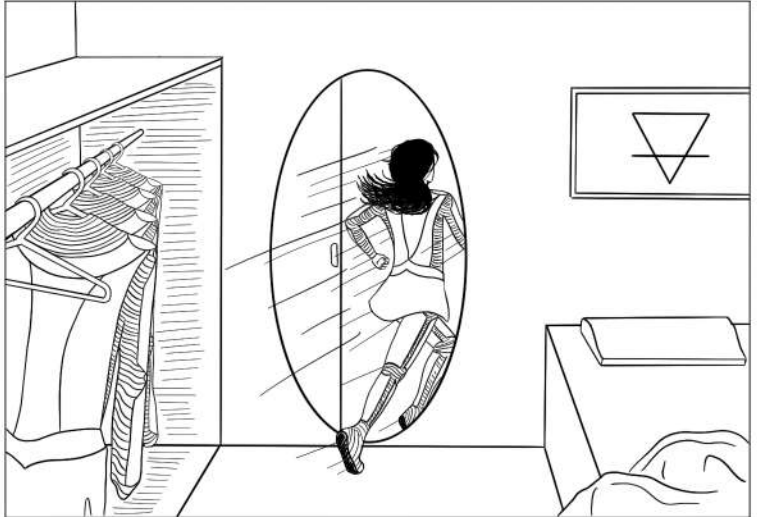
HAVE YOU EVER FELT THE SUN TICKLING YOUR SKIN?



IT MUST BE AMAZING



REM SLEEP: PREDICTED END 00:02



ELI! WHAT'S UP? WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

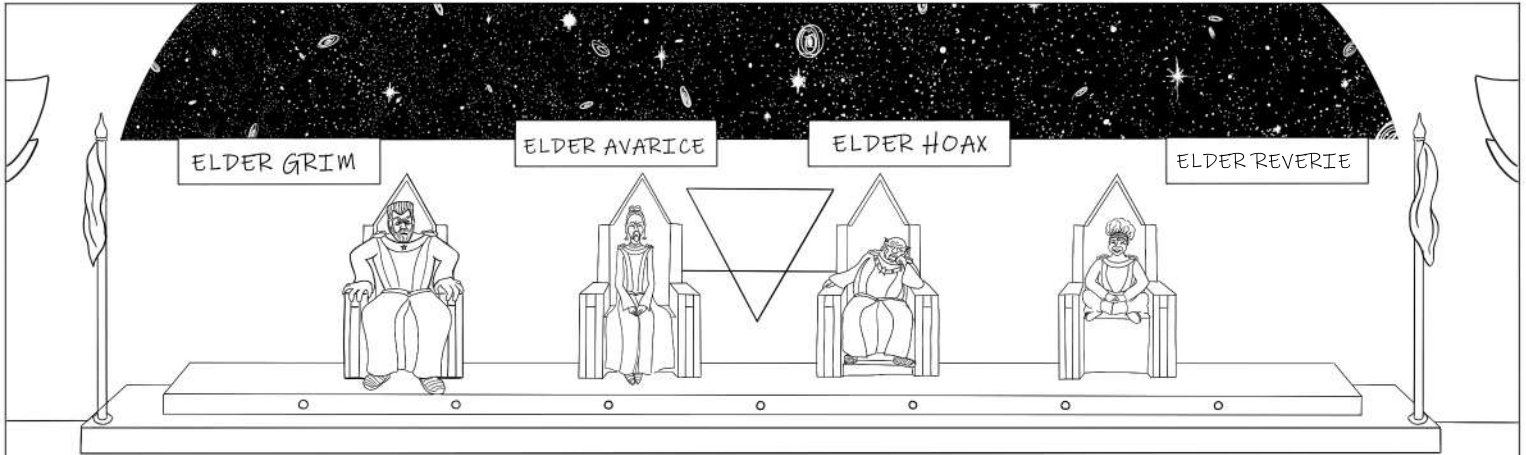
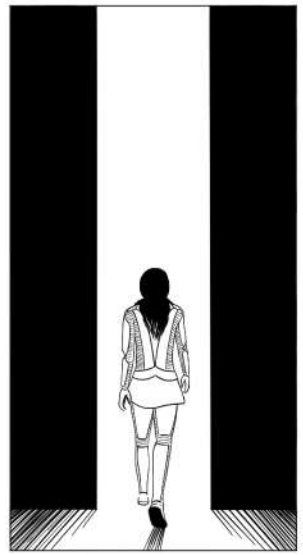
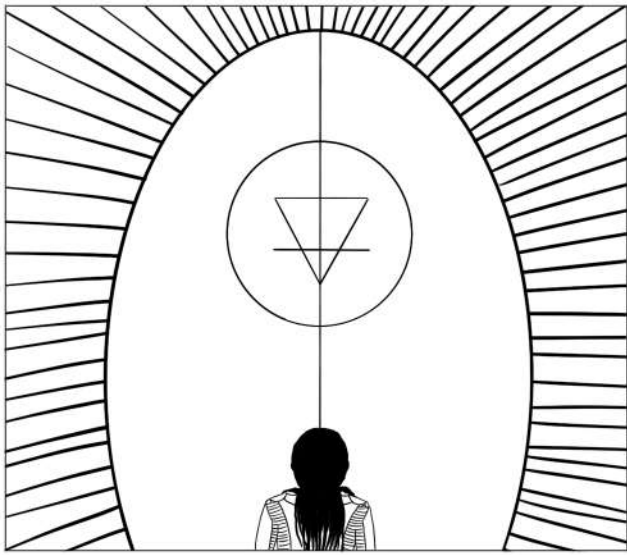


SORRY SAM!
CAN'T STOP!
I'VE GOT TO
SPEAK TO
THE COUNCIL!

OKAY! GOOD LUCK
WITH WHATEVER IT IS!



THANK YOU!
THIS COULD BE BIG!



THIS IS THE ELDER COUNCIL. THEY HOLD ABSOLUTE POWER OVER OUR COLONY. ALL WE HAVE EVER KNOWN IS THEIR VISION AND COMMAND.



BUT NOW EVERYTHING HAS CHANGED...

... I HAVE TO TELL THEM WHAT I HAVE EXPERIENCED.

ARISE, CHILD, AND EXPLAIN THE PURPOSE OF THIS INTERRUPTION.



HONOURABLE ELDERS, PLEASE HEAR MY PLEDGE: I KNOW OUR COLONY IS STRUGGLING TO SURVIVE...

... SO I AM HERE TODAY WITH AN IDEA FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION.

LET'S RETURN HOME - TO EARTH!



FRIVOLOUS!



ELDER GRIM

HOW DARE YOU?!



ELDER AVARICE

**YOUNGLING ELI,
EXPLAIN YOURSELF
IMMEDIATELY!**



ELDER HOAX

**COUNCIL, I KNOW THIS
SOUNDS STRANGE...**



**... BUT I DREAMT OF EARTH.
ACTUALLY, IT WASN'T A
DREAM...**



**... IT WAS A MOST REALISTIC
VISION!**



**NOT THE EARTH I HAVE LEARNED ABOUT - SOMETHING WAS DIFFERENT, NEW, FRESH.
I STROLLED THROUGH THE GRASS AND FELT A COOL BREEZE. I PADDLED IN A RIVER.
IT WAS EXTRAORDINARY.**

**PEOPLE LEFT EARTH BECAUSE
THEY THOUGHT THE ENVIRONMENT
WAS BEYOND RECOVERY. BUT IT
HAS RECOVERED AND IS HOME
AGAIN TO ALL SORTS OF LIFE.**



**IT COULD BE OUR HOME AGAIN TOO!
PLEASE LET US RETURN
TO OUR PLANET!**

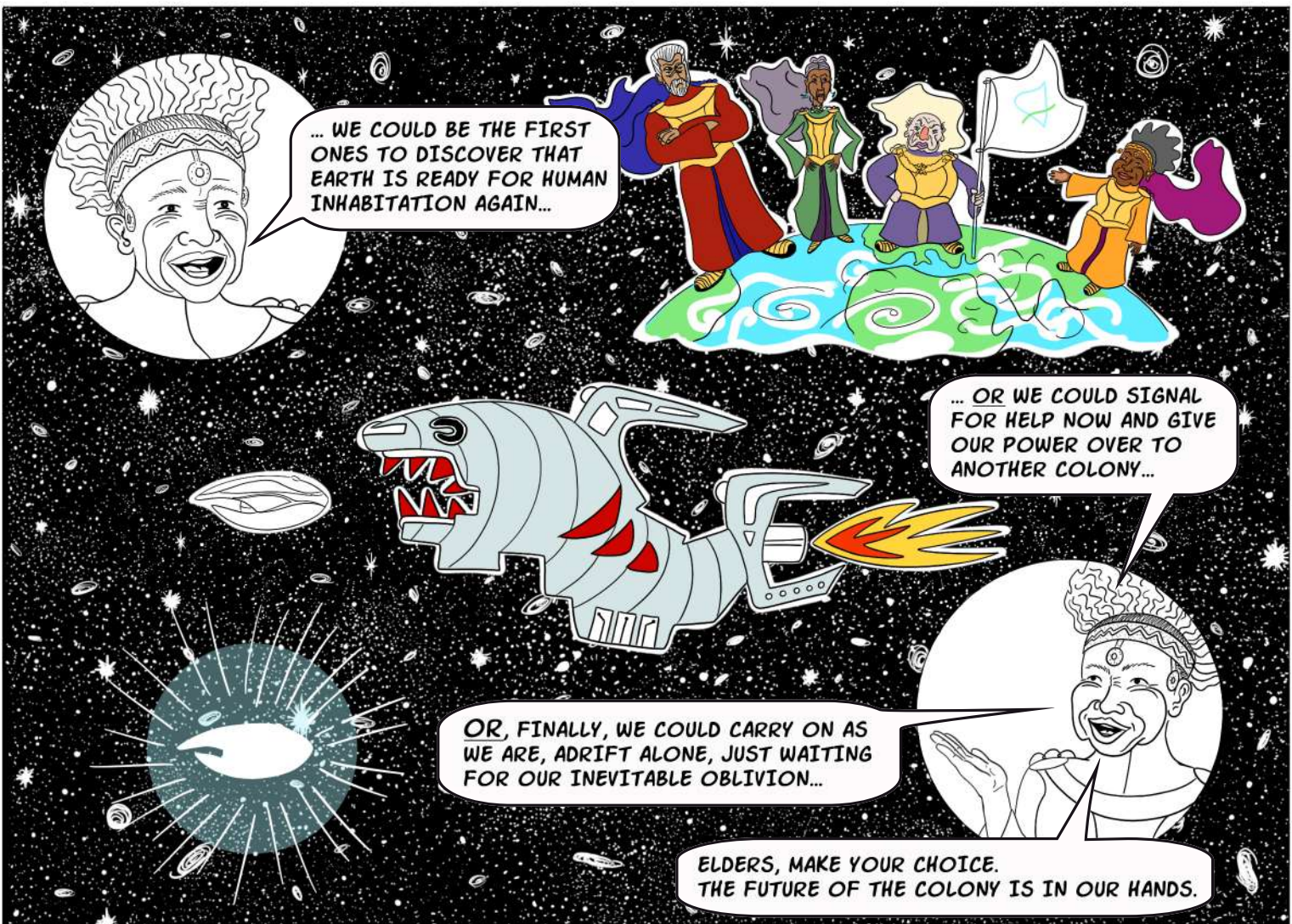
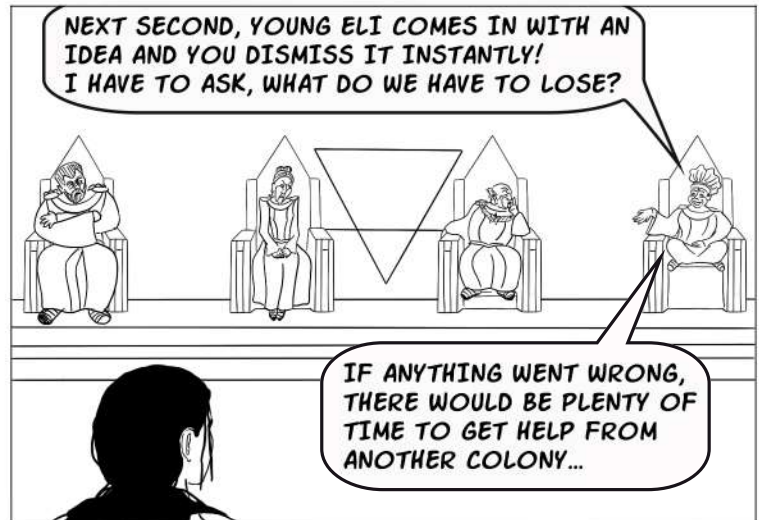
**DO YOU REALLY THINK WE
WOULD RISK THE LIVES OF
EVERYONE ON THIS SHIP
JUST BECAUSE YOU**

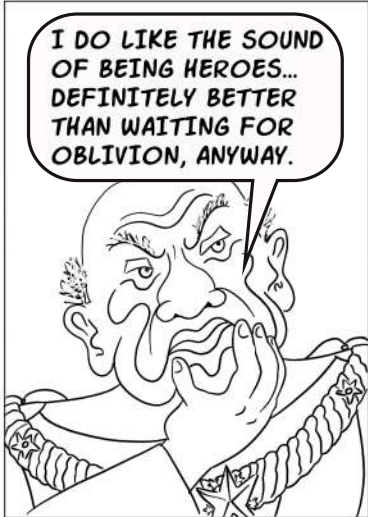
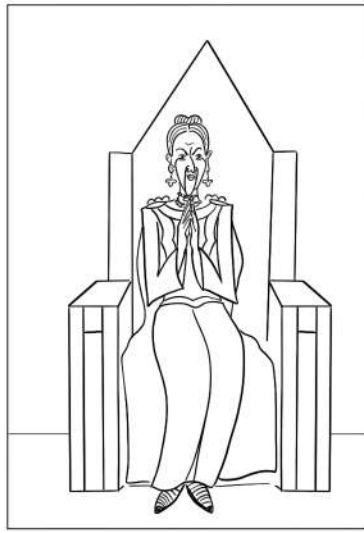
**HAD A
DREAM?!**



**CHILD, YOU ARE
WASTING OUR TIME.
RETURN TO YOUR DUTIES.**



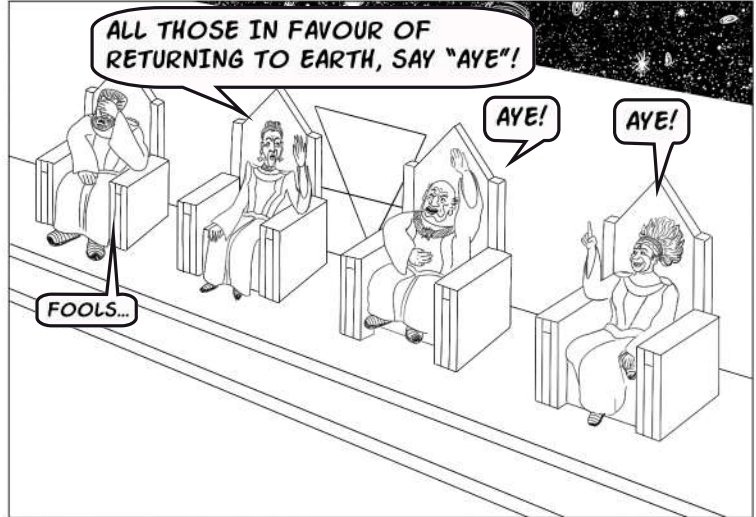




I DO LIKE THE SOUND OF BEING HEROES... DEFINITELY BETTER THAN WAITING FOR OBLIVION, ANYWAY.



JUST THINK OF THE RICHES WE WILL DISCOVER!



ALL THOSE IN FAVOUR OF RETURNING TO EARTH, SAY "AYE!"

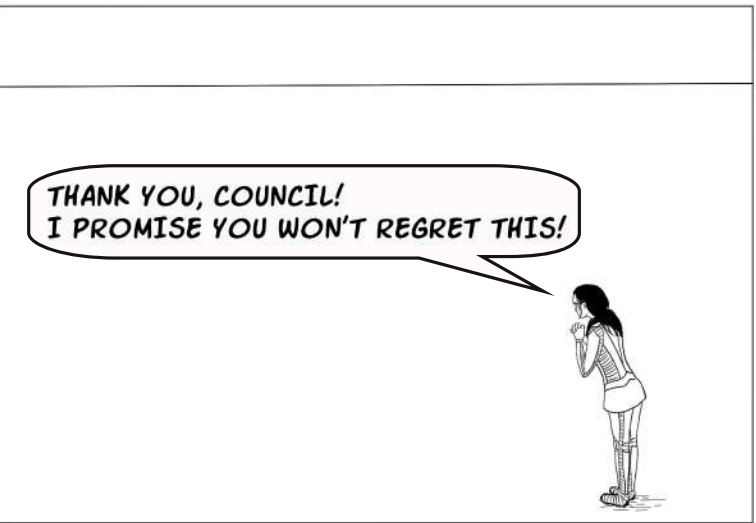
AYE!

AYE!

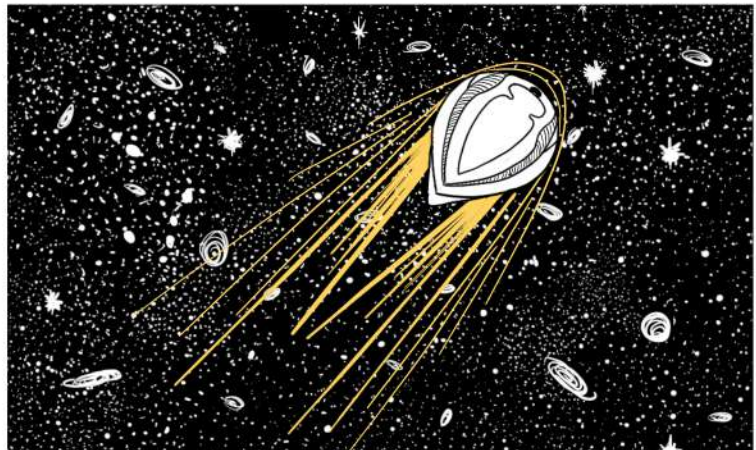
FOOLS...



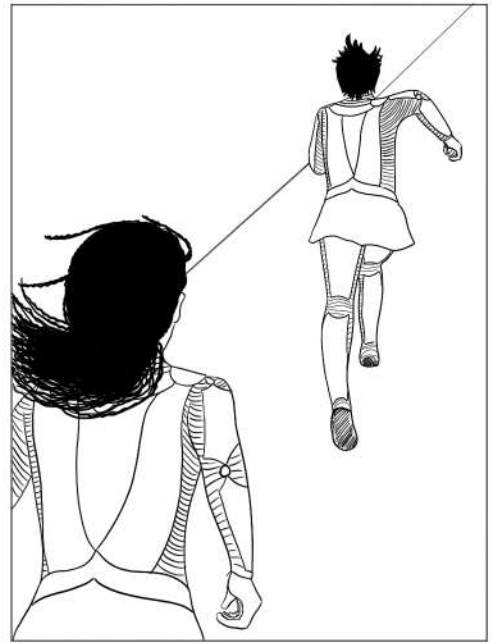
FINE! WE'LL SEE WHO'S RIGHT IN THE END.



THANK YOU, COUNCIL! I PROMISE YOU WON'T REGRET THIS!



AND SO WE TOOK COURSE TO EARTH, WITH HIGH HOPES AND VERY DIFFERENT PLANS IN MIND, AS WE SOON DISCOVERED...





THERE IS NO
CALL FOR
SUCH
EXCITEMENT.
WE DON'T
KNOW WHAT
AWAITS
US DOWN
THERE YET.

WE MIGHT
STILL
DIE!

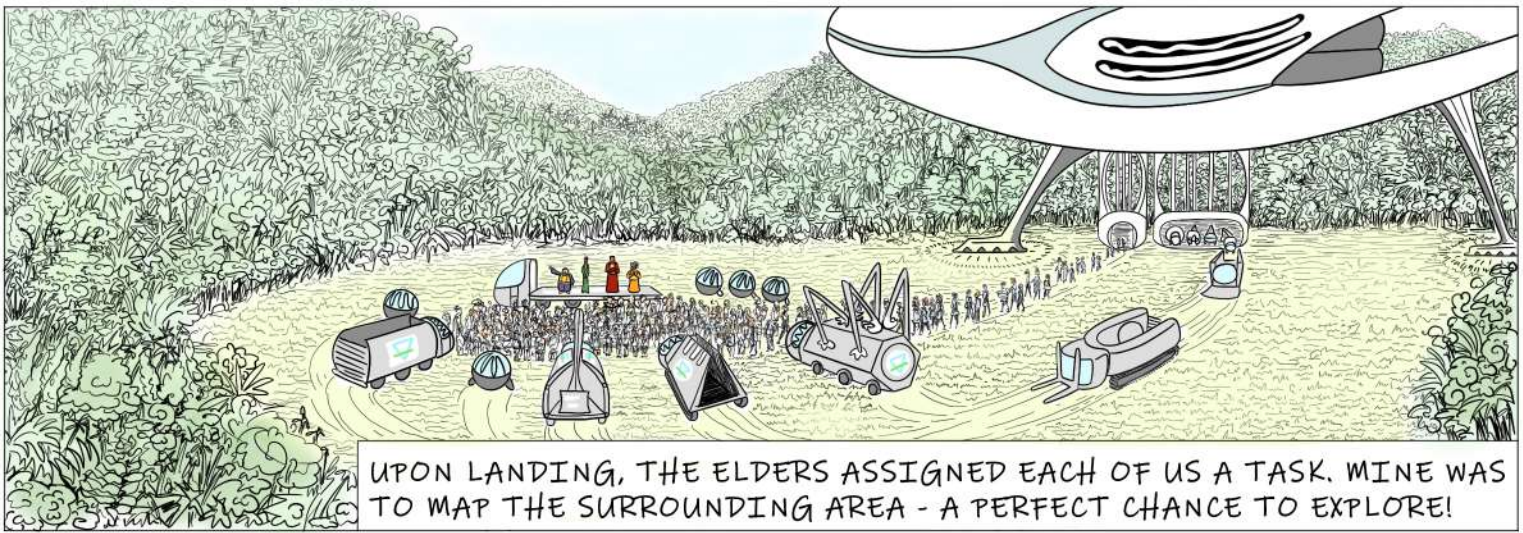


WE MUST PLAN FOR A THOROUGH
EXTRICATION OF RESOURCES... !

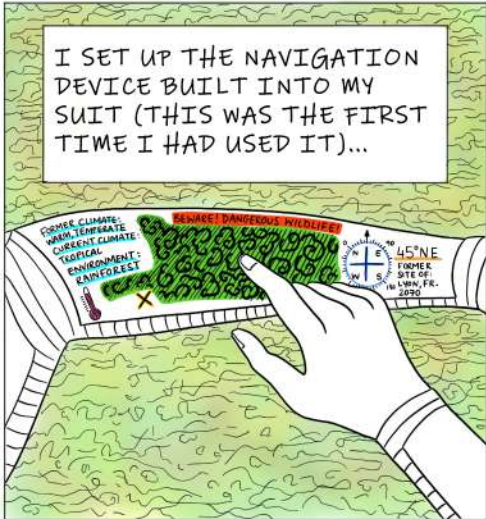
AFTER WEEKS OF ORBITING EARTH, SENDING DOWN ROBOTS FOR
ENDLESS TESTING OF AIR, WATER AND SOIL SAMPLES,
THE ELDERS FINALLY ALLOWED US TO LAND.



AND SO THE FIRST HUMANS IN ONE THOUSAND YEARS SET FOOT AGAIN ON
THEIR NATIVE PLANET...



UPON LANDING, THE ELDERS ASSIGNED EACH OF US A TASK. MINE WAS TO MAP THE SURROUNDING AREA - A PERFECT CHANCE TO EXPLORE!



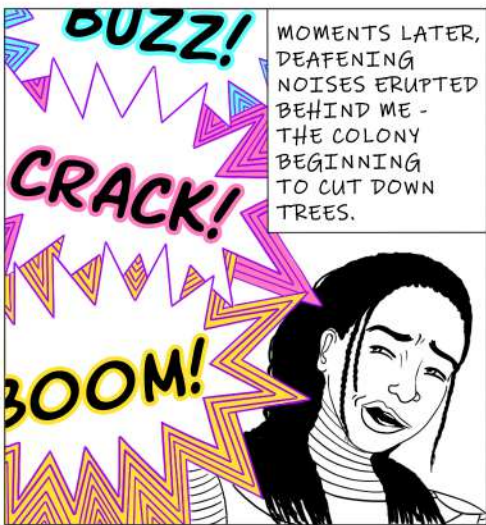
I SET UP THE NAVIGATION DEVICE BUILT INTO MY SUIT (THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME I HAD USED IT)...



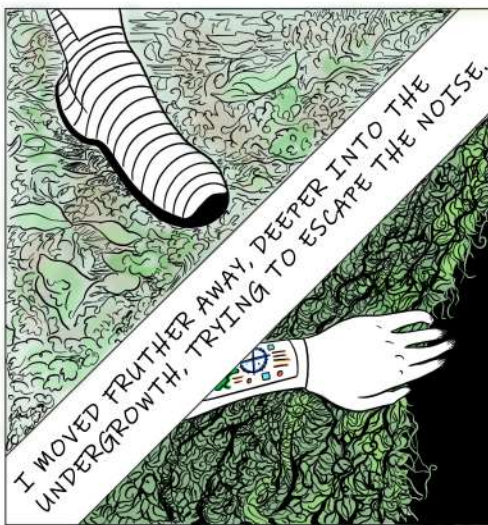
... I CHECKED MY KNIFE WAS SECURED IN PLACE (I THOUGHT I MIGHT NEED IT TO CLEAR MY PATH)...



... AND HEADED INTO THE JUNGLE.



MOMENTS LATER, DEAFENING NOISES ERUPTED BEHIND ME - THE COLONY BEGINNING TO CUT DOWN TREES.



I MOVED FRUTHER AWAY, DEEPER INTO THE UNDERGROWTH, TRYING TO ESCAPE THE NOISE.

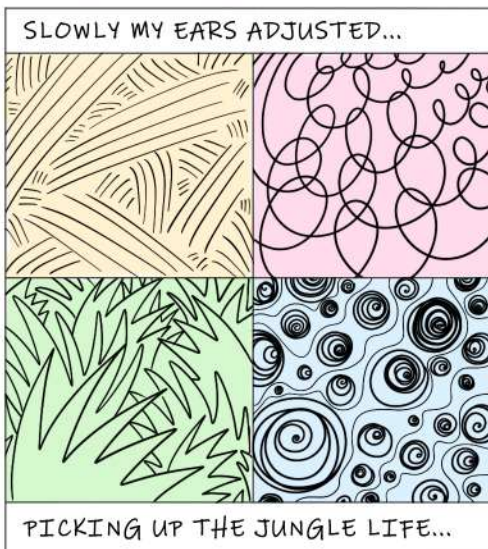


SOON, THE JUNGLE HAD ABSORBED ALL SOUNDS OF THE COLONY...

... AND ALL I COULD HEAR WAS...



... NOTHING?



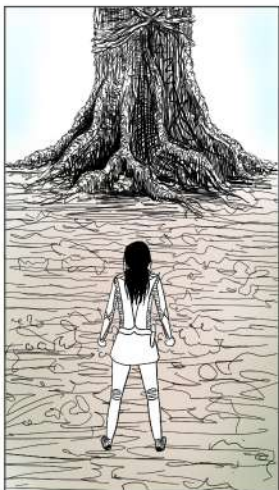
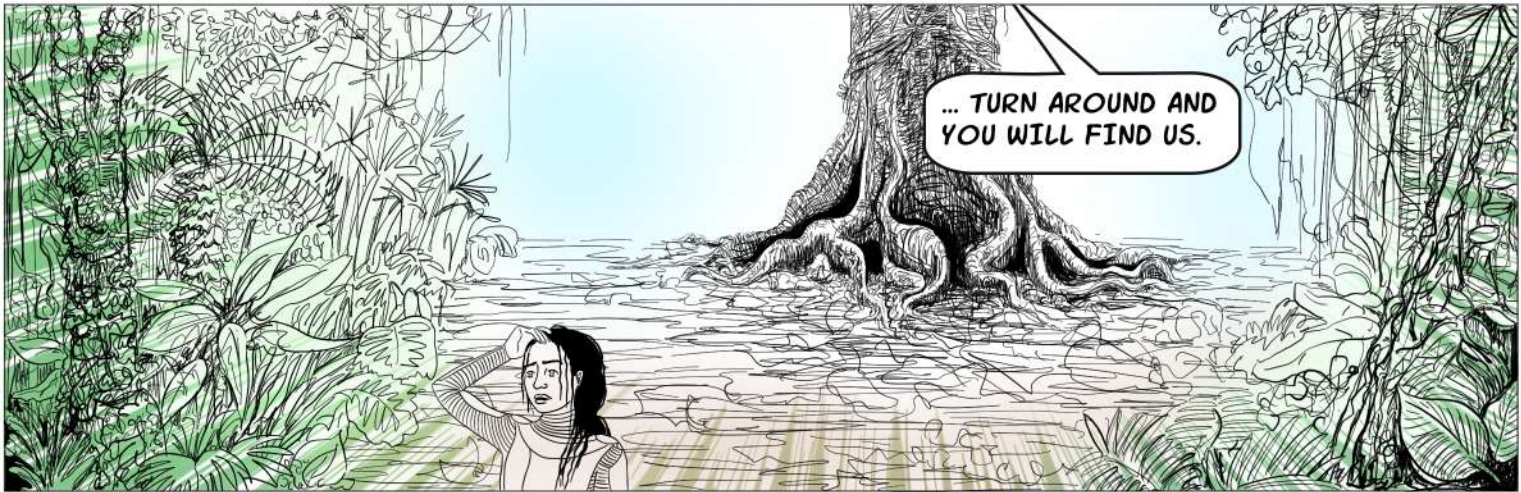
SLOWLY MY EARS ADJUSTED...

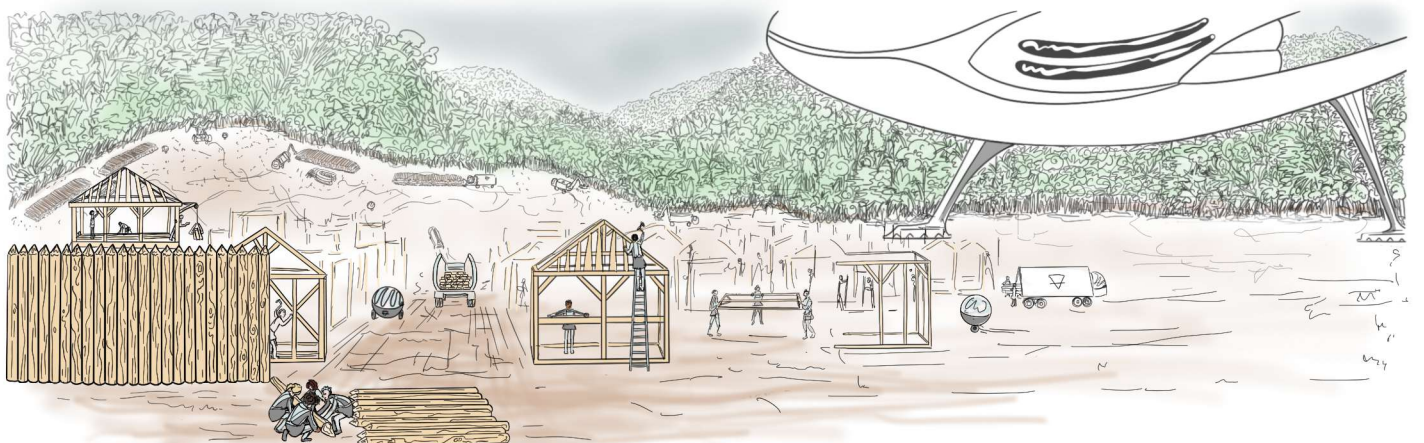
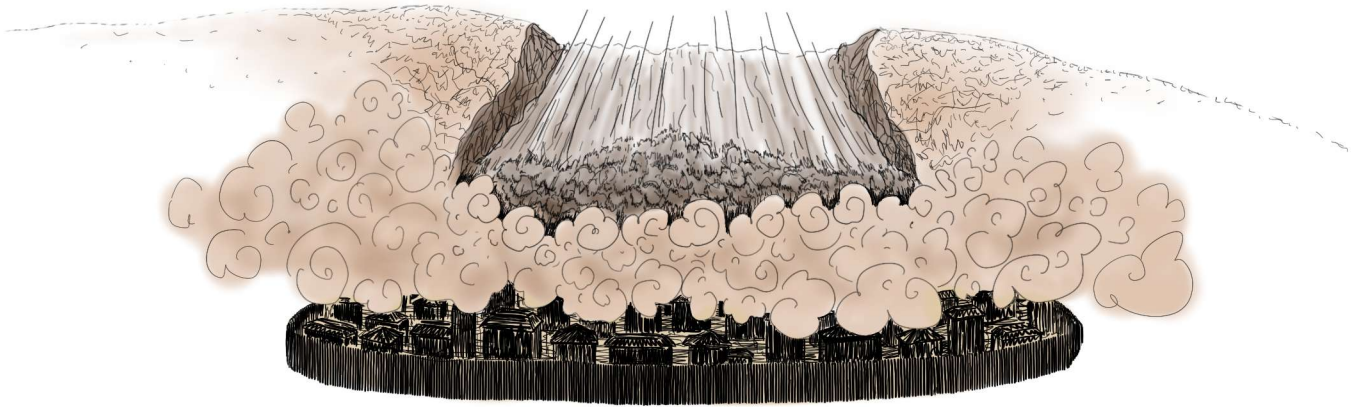
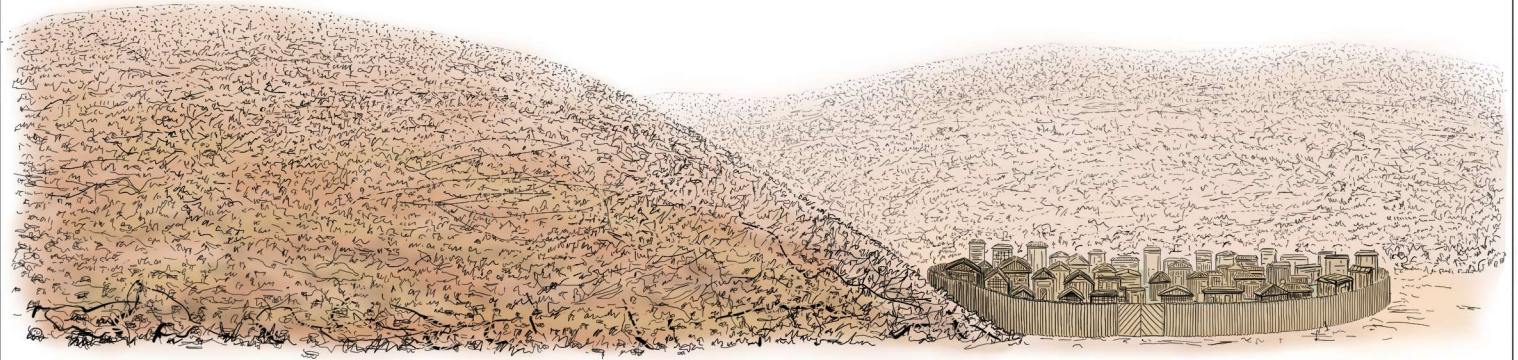
PICKING UP THE JUNGLE LIFE...



A RIVER!









YOU HAVE SEEN WHAT WAS,
WHAT IS, AND WHAT MAY
HAPPEN AGAIN.

ELI, YOU CAN HEAR US SO YOU
ARE OUR ONLY CHANCE -

TAKE OUR MESSAGE
TO YOUR PEOPLE!

HOW DO YOU KNOW WHO I AM?

ELI, YOUR NAME HAS BEEN
WHISPERED FROM TREE
TO TREE FOR MILLENIA.
YOU ARE DESTINED TO
SAVE US AND HUMAN KIND.

TELL US, WHAT DID YOU
SEE IN YOUR VISION?



I SAW... I SAW HOW HUMANKIND DESTROYED THE ENVIRONMENT. WE TOOK AND TOOK AND TOOK AND GAVE NOTHING BACK.

WE CAUSED SO MUCH DAMAGE!



YES, THAT'S RIGHT. BUT LOOK AROUND YOU...

... WHAT DO YOU SEE NOW?



LIFE...

... SO MUCH LIFE!

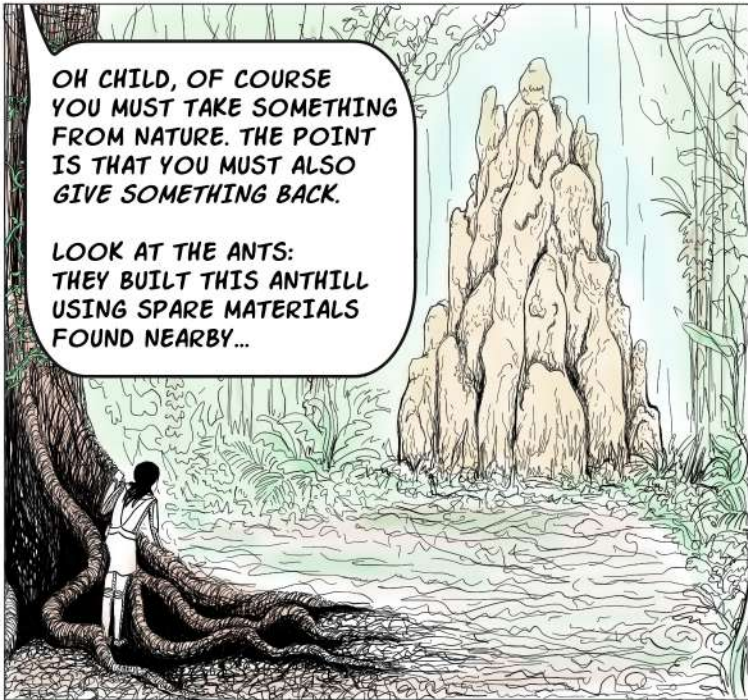


YES, YOU SEE HUMANKIND RUINED IT ALL BUT NATURE BOUNCED BACK OVER TIME.

LISTEN, ELI, MAINTAINING A BALANCE IS CRUCIAL FOR LIFE TO FLOURISH.

I SEE! I NEED TO WARN MY PEOPLE -

WE MUST NOT TAKE ANYTHING AWAY!



OH CHILD, OF COURSE YOU MUST TAKE SOMETHING FROM NATURE. THE POINT IS THAT YOU MUST ALSO GIVE SOMETHING BACK.

LOOK AT THE ANTS: THEY BUILT THIS ANTHILL USING SPARE MATERIALS FOUND NEARBY...



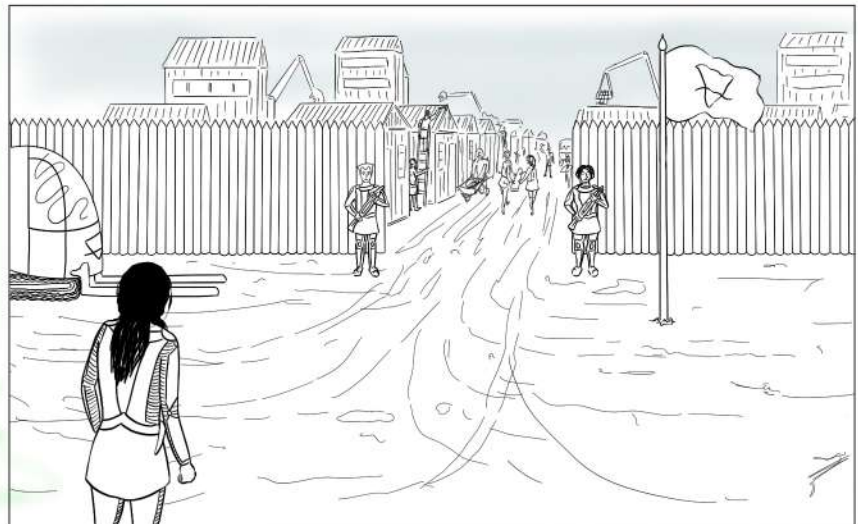
... INSIDE, THEY CULTIVATE FUNGI, NOURISHING AND DEFENDING IT. IN TURN, THE FUNGI FEEDS THEM.

THEY HAVE FOUND A WAY TO MEET THEIR OWN NEEDS WHILE BENEFITTING OTHERS.



I NEED TO SHOW MY PEOPLE HOW IT IS, AND HAS ALWAYS BEEN, POSSIBLE TO LIVE IN HARMONY WITH NATURE!

THAT'S IT, ELI! NOW GO AND FULFIL YOUR DESTINY!



HOW COULD I CONVINCe MY PEOPLE TO CHANGE DIRECTION?

MOST SEEMED MORE INTERESTED IN SAPPING NATURE'S RESOURCES THAN CARING FOR IT.

I HAD TO WARN THEM BEFORE WE SET OURSELVES IRREVOCABLY ON THE PATH TO REPEATING OUR ANCESTORS' MISTAKES.



OH SAM, WHERE DO I BEGIN? I NEED TO TELL THE COUNCIL THAT OUR COLONY HAS TO STOP EXPLOITING NATURE. WE HAVE ONLY JUST ARRIVED AND WE HAVE ALREADY CLEARED A VAST AREA OF JUNGLE.



YOU'RE RIGHT, WE ARE WORKING RELENTLESSLY AND THE PROGRESS IS SCARY...

IT ALL FEELS SO WRONG.



WE'VE GOT TO SHAKE EVERYONE OUT OF THIS; WE ARE RUINING OUR HABITAT AGAIN.

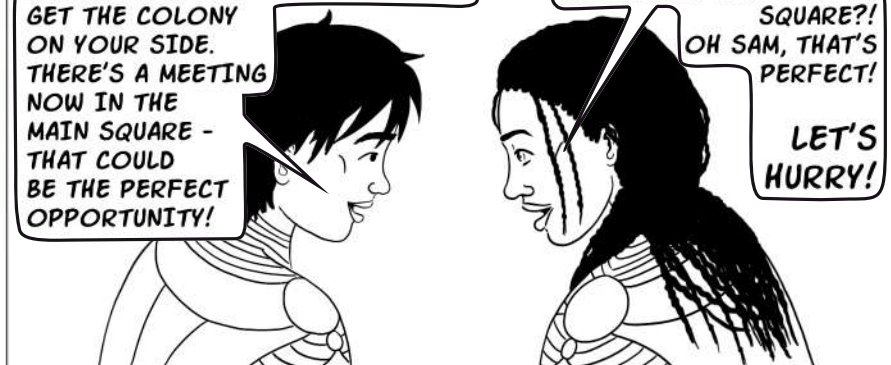
HOW CAN I MAKE THE ELDERS LISTEN?

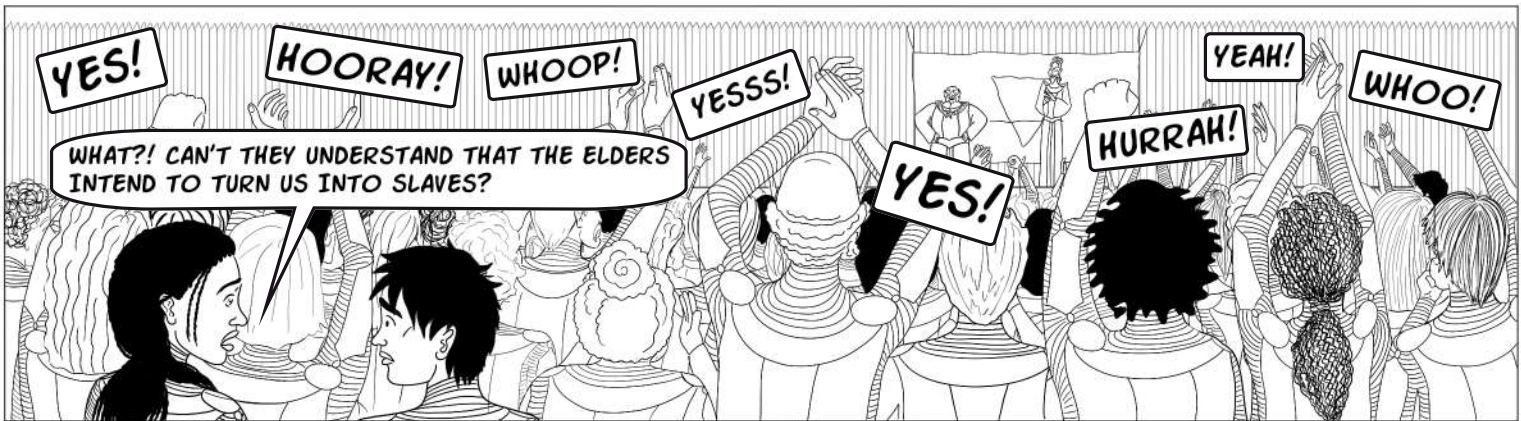


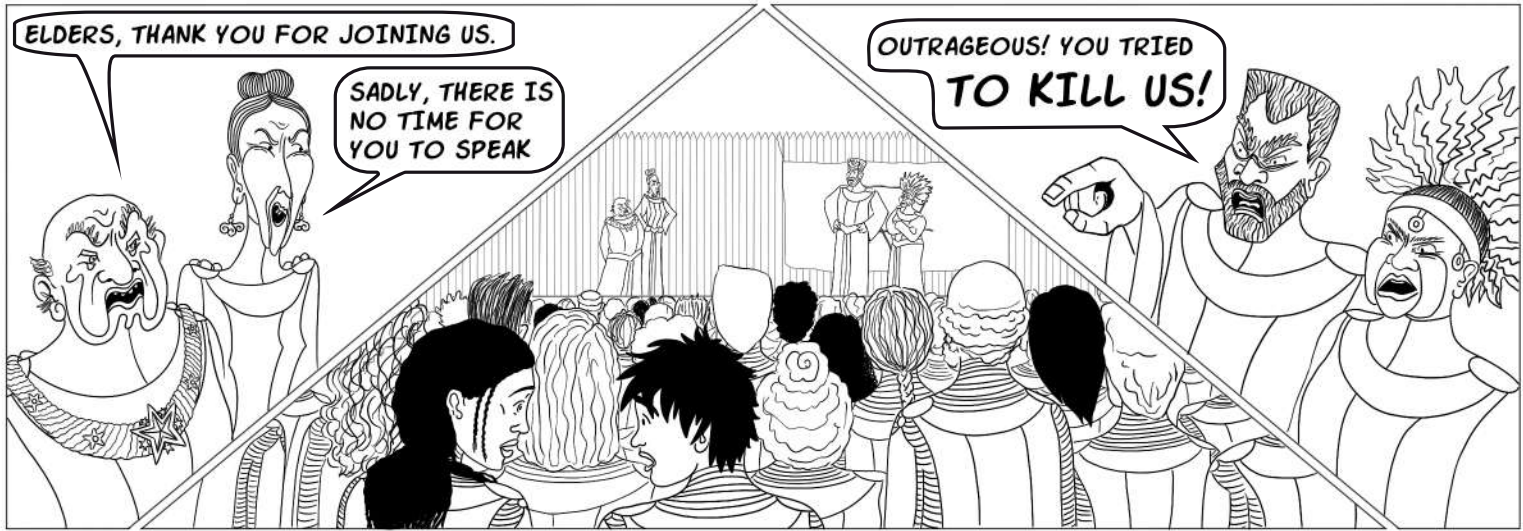
WHAT IF YOU SPEAK TO EVERYONE? GET THE COLONY ON YOUR SIDE. THERE'S A MEETING NOW IN THE MAIN SQUARE - THAT COULD BE THE PERFECT OPPORTUNITY!

WE ALREADY HAVE A MAIN SQUARE?! OH SAM, THAT'S PERFECT!

LET'S HURRY!



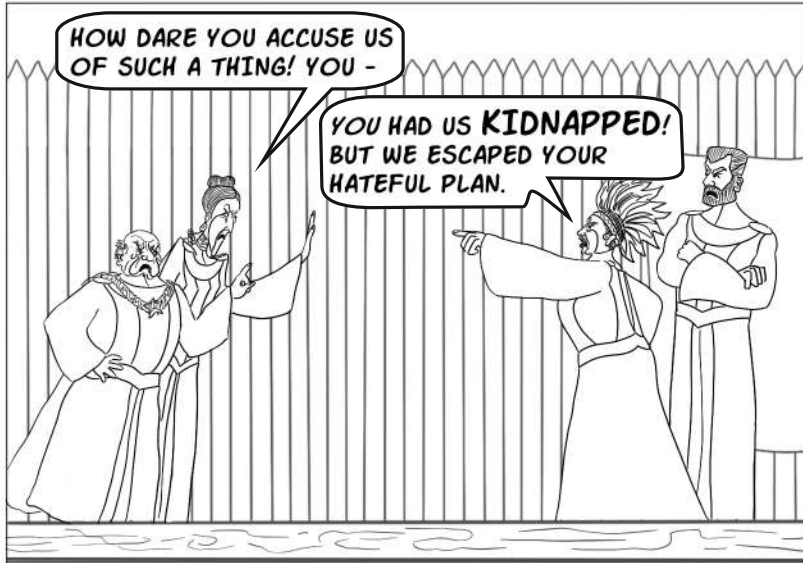




ELDERS, THANK YOU FOR JOINING US.

SADLY, THERE IS NO TIME FOR YOU TO SPEAK

OUTRAGEOUS! YOU TRIED TO KILL US!



HOW DARE YOU ACCUSE US OF SUCH A THING! YOU -

YOU HAD US KIDNAPPED! BUT WE ESCAPED YOUR HATEFUL PLAN.



YOU GAVE US NO CHOICE. YOU WANT DEMOCRACY BUT WE KNOW WHAT'S BEST - HARD WORK AND UNLIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL EXPLOITATION.

AVARICE IS RIGHT. YOUR PLAN WOULD HAVE DOOMED US TO POVERTY!



YOU ARE DOOMING US!



WHAT DO YOU WANT NOW?!

SOMEBODY STOP HER!



LET ELI SPEAK! WE OWE HER THAT AT LEAST..!



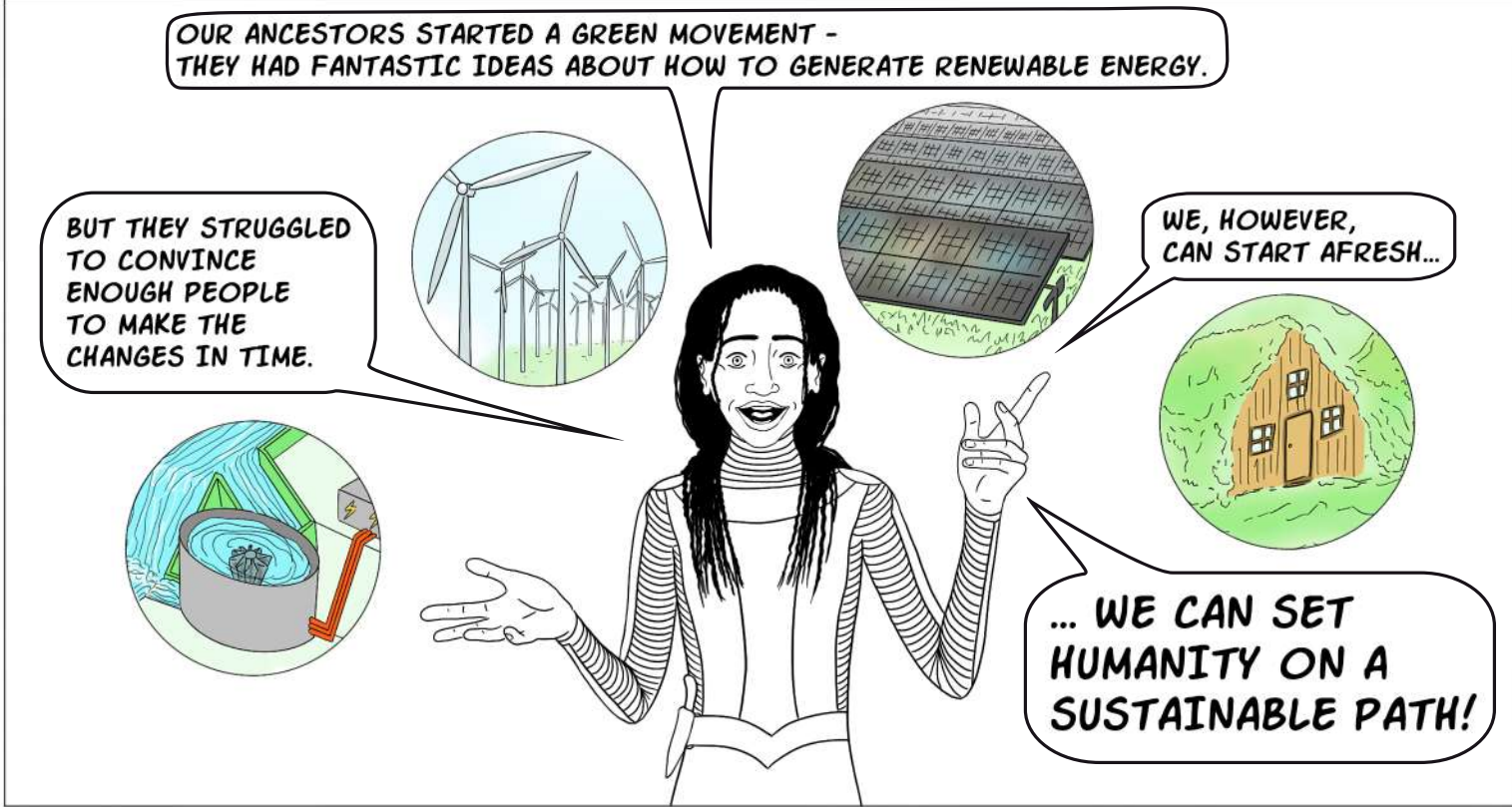
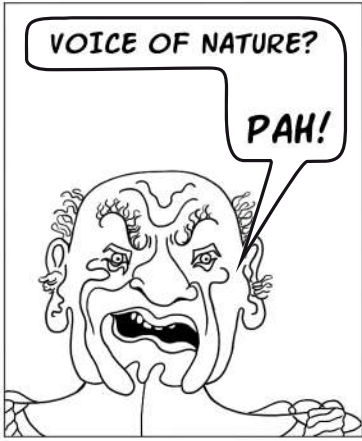
THANK YOU. ELDER HOAX, ELDER AVARICE, YOU ARE LEADING US TO RUIN. UPON YOUR ORDERS, THE COLONY HAS ALREADY RIPPED APART HALF THE JUNGLE AND YOU ARE PLANNING MUCH WORSE!

WE HAVE TO START THINKING ABOUT OUR NEEDS DIFFERENTLY!

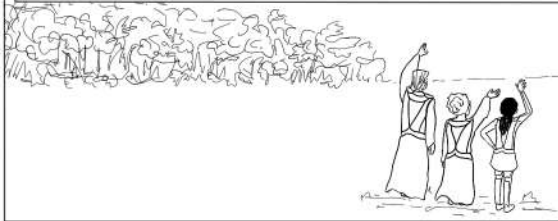


UNEXPECTEDLY, NATURE HAS SPOKEN TO ME - TO ASK US TO LIVE IN HARMONY WITH THE ENVIRONMENT.

WE CAN DO THIS AND THRIVE AS A COMMUNITY!



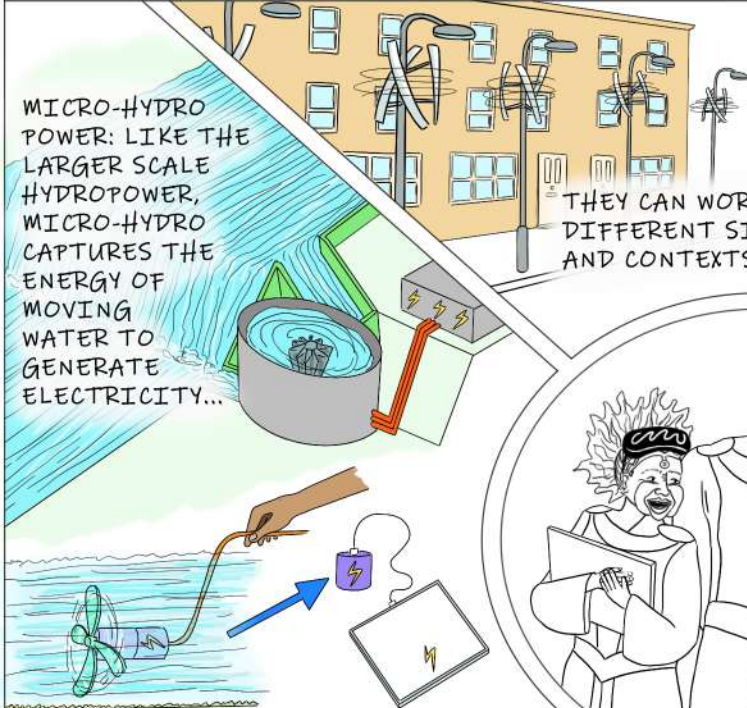
ELDERS HOAX AND AVARICE LEFT ON A SPARE SHUTTLE. THEY NEVER BOTHERED US AGAIN.



IMMEDIATELY WE SET TO WORK ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR NEW GREEN SOCIETY.

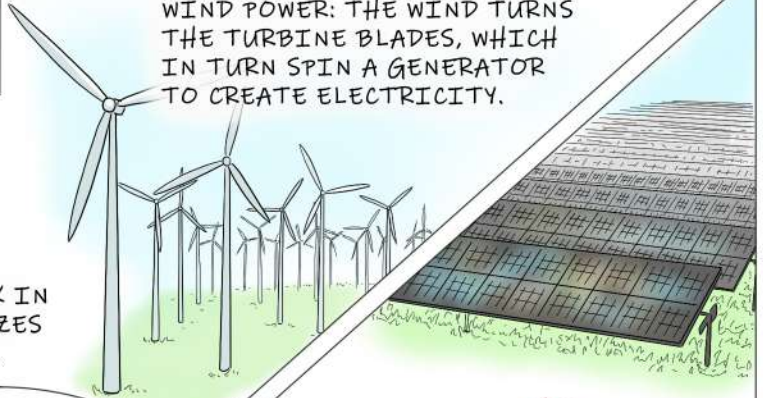
WE BEGAN BY SEARCHING THROUGH OUR E-LEARNING PROGRAMMES FOR INFORMATION ABOUT SUSTAINABLE ENERGY AND LIVING.

MICRO-HYDRO POWER: LIKE THE LARGER SCALE HYDROPOWER, MICRO-HYDRO CAPTURES THE ENERGY OF MOVING WATER TO GENERATE ELECTRICITY...



THEY CAN WORK IN DIFFERENT SIZES AND CONTEXTS.

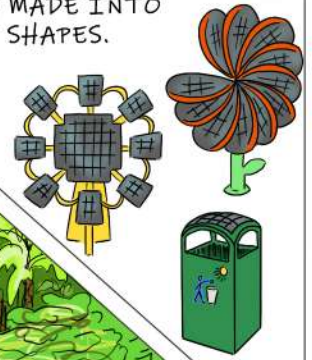
WIND POWER: THE WIND TURNS THE TURBINE BLADES, WHICH IN TURN SPIN A GENERATOR TO CREATE ELECTRICITY.



SOLAR POWER: SOLAR PANELS CONVERT SUNLIGHT INTO ELECTRICITY



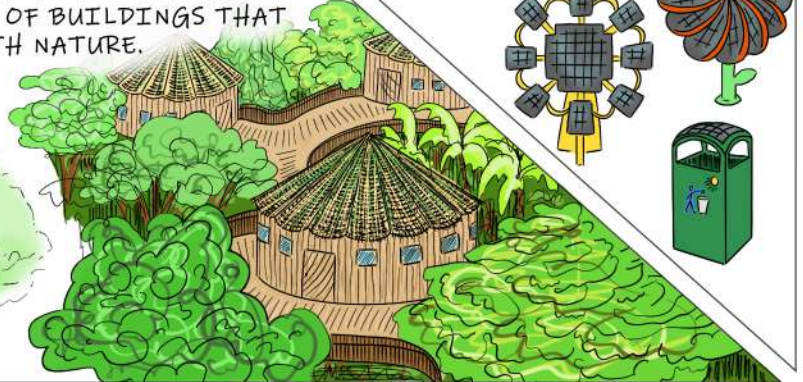
LIKE TURBINES, SOLAR PANELS CAN BE USED IN MANY PLACES AND CAN BE MADE INTO DIFFERENT SHAPES.



BUT MICRO-HYDRO'S SMALLER SCALE MEANS IT HAS A MUCH MORE MANAGABLE IMPACT ON THE SURROUNDING ECOSYSTEM.



TURF HOUSES AND TREE HOUSES ARE EXAMPLES OF BUILDINGS THAT BLEND IN WITH NATURE.



WE ELECTED A NEW ELDER TO HELP US BRING ABOUT THE DEVELOPMENTS.

ALL IN FAVOUR OF ELECTING HOPE SAY "AYE!"



AS WE CONTINUED OUR RESEARCH, ELDER HOPE ENSURED THE WHOLE COMMUNITY FELT THEIR VOICES WERE BEING HEARD.





NOW A FEW YEARS HAVE PASSED AND WE HAVE BUILT A HOME THAT EXISTS IN COMPLETE HARMONY WITH NATURE.

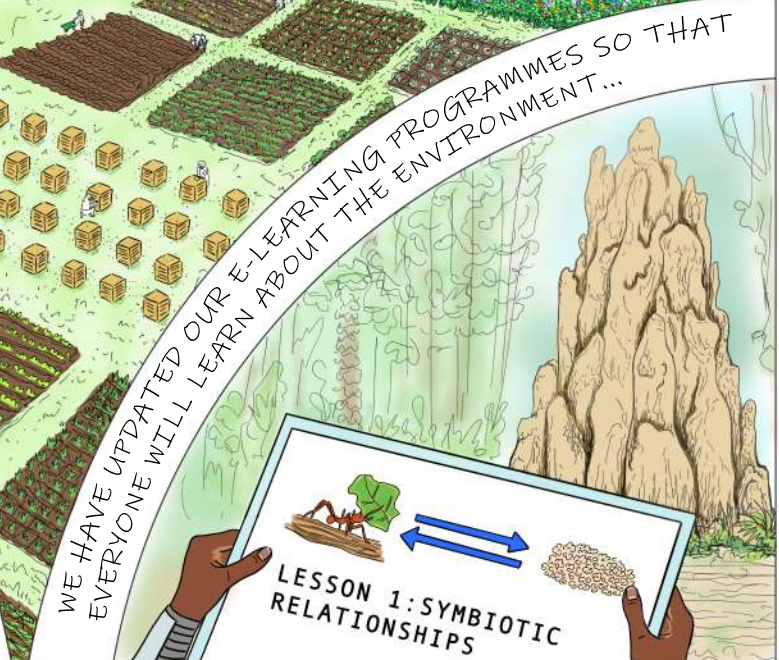


MORE CHILDREN ARE BEING BORN...

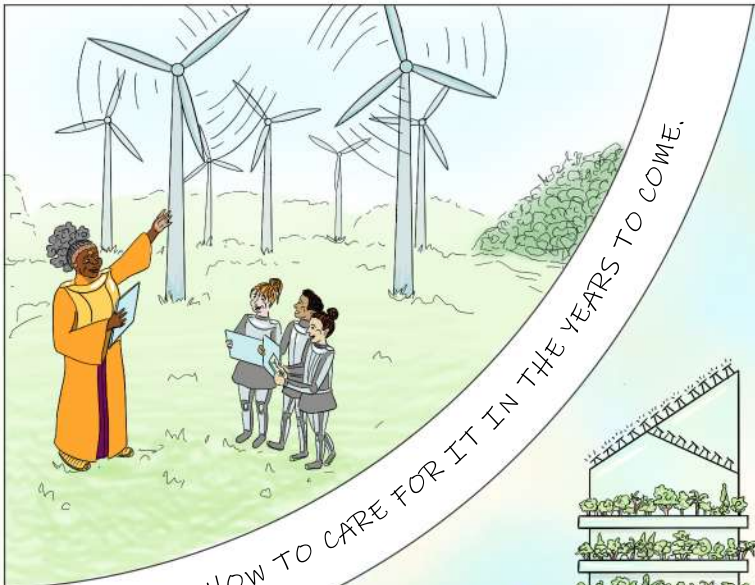
YEAR 3073



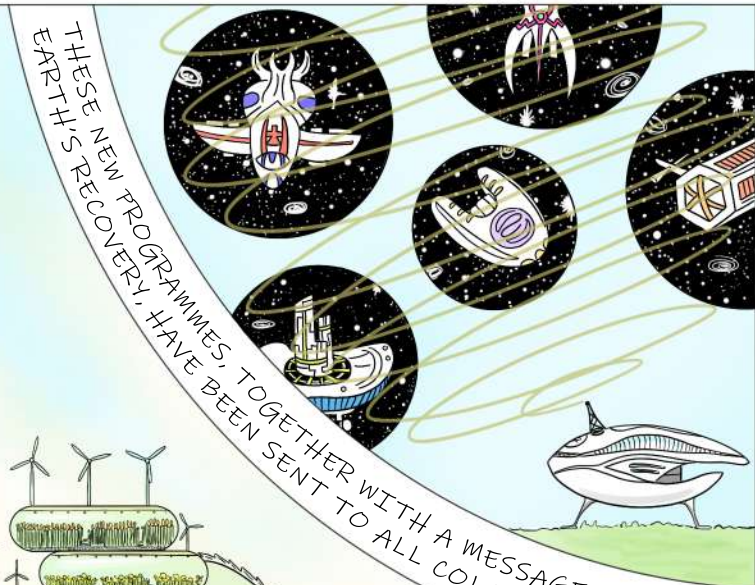
... AND DAILY LIFE IS PEACEFUL.



WE HAVE UPDATED OUR E-LEARNING PROGRAMMES SO THAT EVERYONE WILL LEARN ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENT...

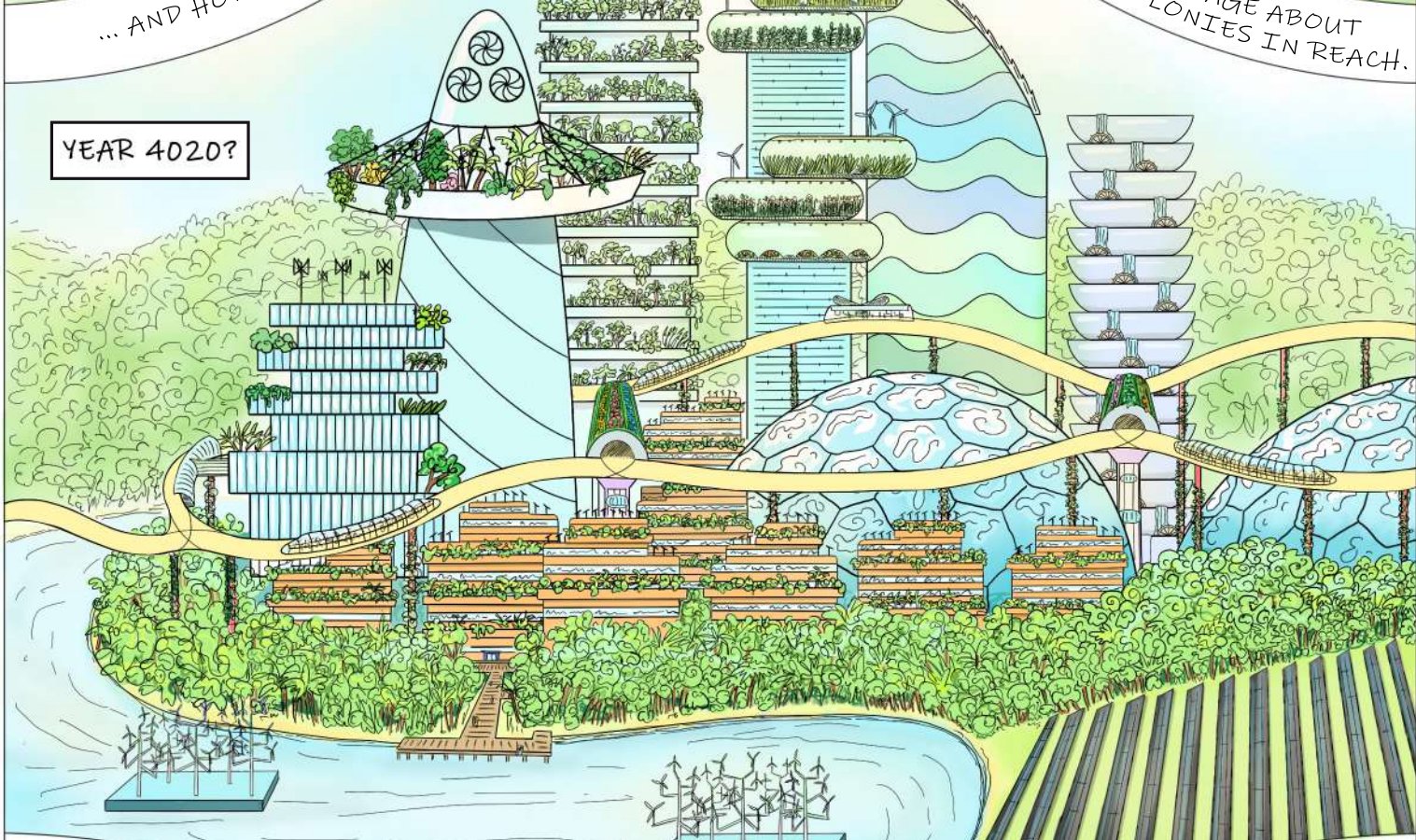


... AND HOW TO CARE FOR IT IN THE YEARS TO COME.

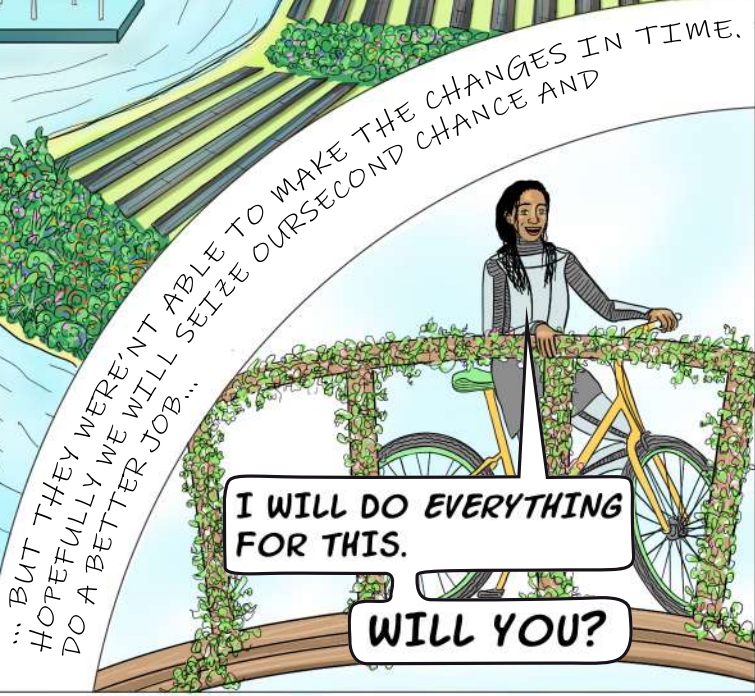


THESE NEW PROGRAMMES, TOGETHER WITH A MESSAGE ABOUT EARTH'S RECOVERY, HAVE BEEN SENT TO ALL COLONIES IN REACH.

YEAR 4020?



I CAN ONLY IMAGINE WHAT THE EARTH WILL LOOK LIKE AS THE HUMAN POPULATION GROWS. OUR ANCESTORS KNEW WHAT NEEDED TO BE DONE TO CREATE SUSTAINABLE SOCIETIES...



... BUT THEY WERE'NT ABLE TO MAKE THE CHANGES IN TIME. HOPEFULLY WE WILL SEIZE OUR SECOND CHANCE AND DO A BETTER JOB...

I WILL DO EVERYTHING FOR THIS.

WILL YOU?

THE STORY OF ELI

YEAR 3070. HUMANKIND IS SCATTERED IN NOMAD COLONIES ACROSS THE GALAXY. THEY HAD TO LEAVE EARTH 1000 YEARS AGO, SINCE THE PLANET WAS NO LONGER ABLE TO PROVIDE RESOURCES FOR THE FAST-GROWING AND NEVER-SATISFIED SPECIES CALLED HOMO SAPIENS. ONE DAY, THE PROTAGONIST ELI HAS A VISION AND TRIES TO INITIATE THE RETURN OF ONE COLONY BACK TO EARTH BY CONVINCING THE FOUR ELDERS, WHO LEAD THE COLONY IN THE FORM OF AN ELDER COUNCIL. ELI REALISES THAT HUMAN SOCIETY HAS TO CHANGE ITS PATH IN ORDER TO AVOID MAKING THE SAME MISTAKES AGAIN. THE HARD PART IS JUST HOW TO CONVINCЕ EVERYONE TO FOLLOW ELI'S LEAD...

ABOUT THE PROJECT

THE ERASMUS+ PROJECT "ENVIRONMENTAL LEARNING ILLUSTRATED" (ALSO KNOWN AS "ELI" OR "ILLUSTRATED CLIMATE") ENCOURAGES PEOPLE TO LEARN ABOUT ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS AND SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS TO THESE CHALLENGES THROUGH AN E-LEARNING PLATFORM FEATURING ILLUSTRATIONS AND THIS GRAPHIC NOVEL. THE PROJECT IS CO-FUNDED BY THE ERASMUS+ PROGRAMME FOR ADULT EDUCATION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION.

"BUTTON/STICKER" TO GET PEOPLE INTERESTED IN THE PROJECT:
LEARN WHAT YOU CAN DO: INSERT LINK TO ONLINE LEARNING PLATFORM
(WILL BE PROVIDED WHEN WE HAVE IT)
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*Illustrated
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