

Illustrations by
Kilsu Lee

Story by
Ahreum Lee

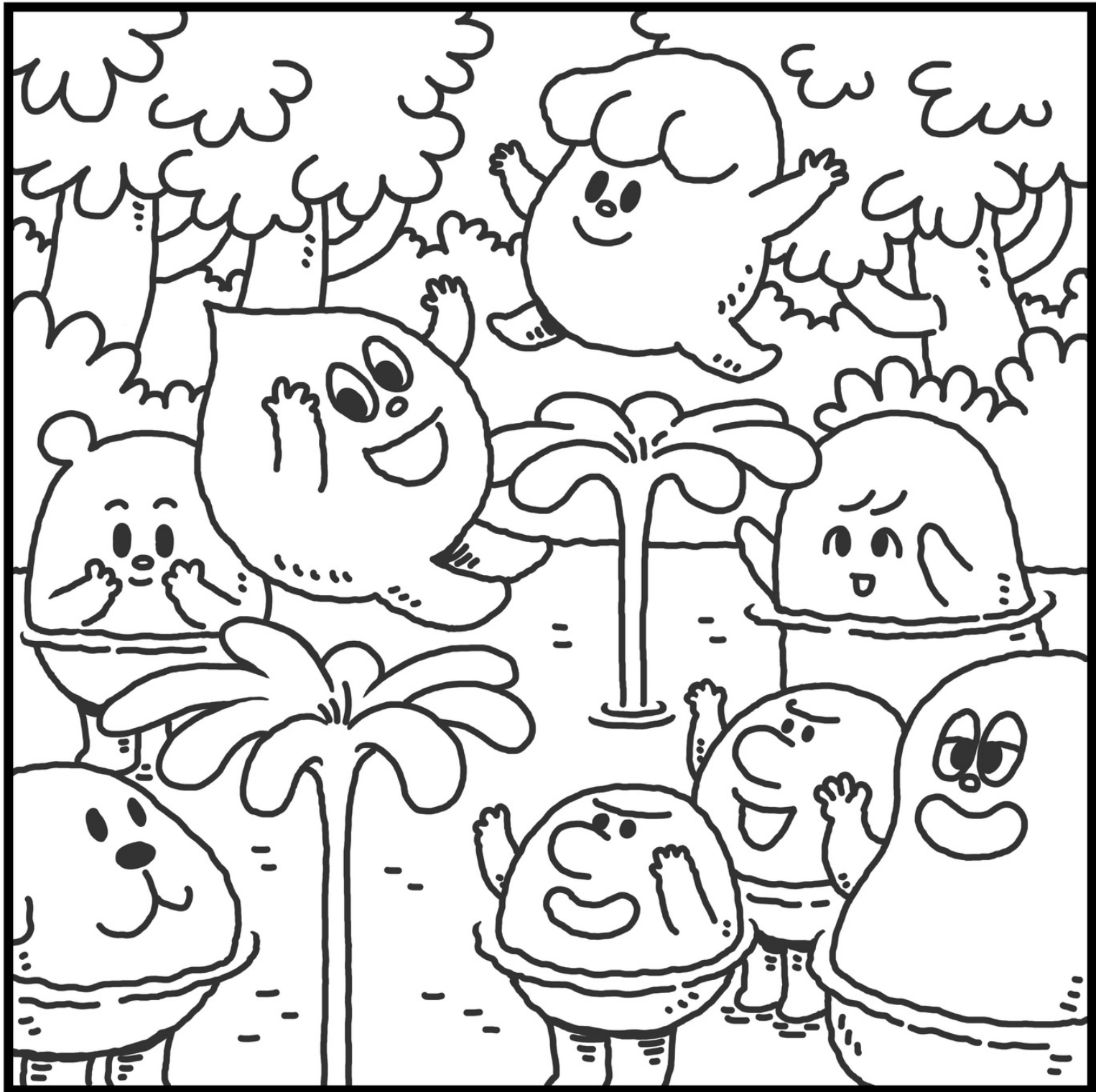


Special Rapporteur on
the human rights to
water and sanitation
Léo Heller

Journey of the Droplets

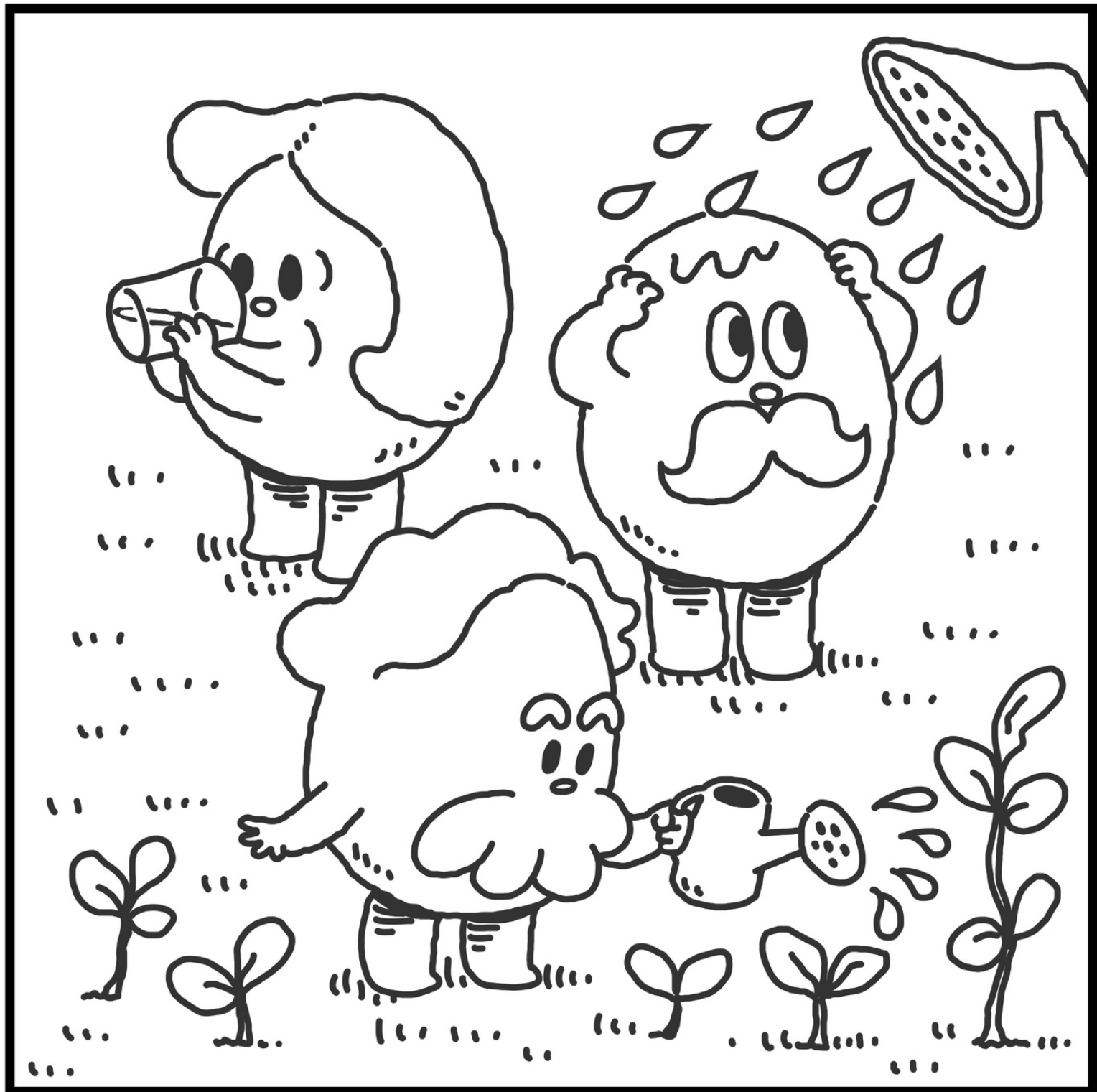
THE HUMAN RIGHT TO WATER





Deep in the mountains, the water Droplets live happily together.

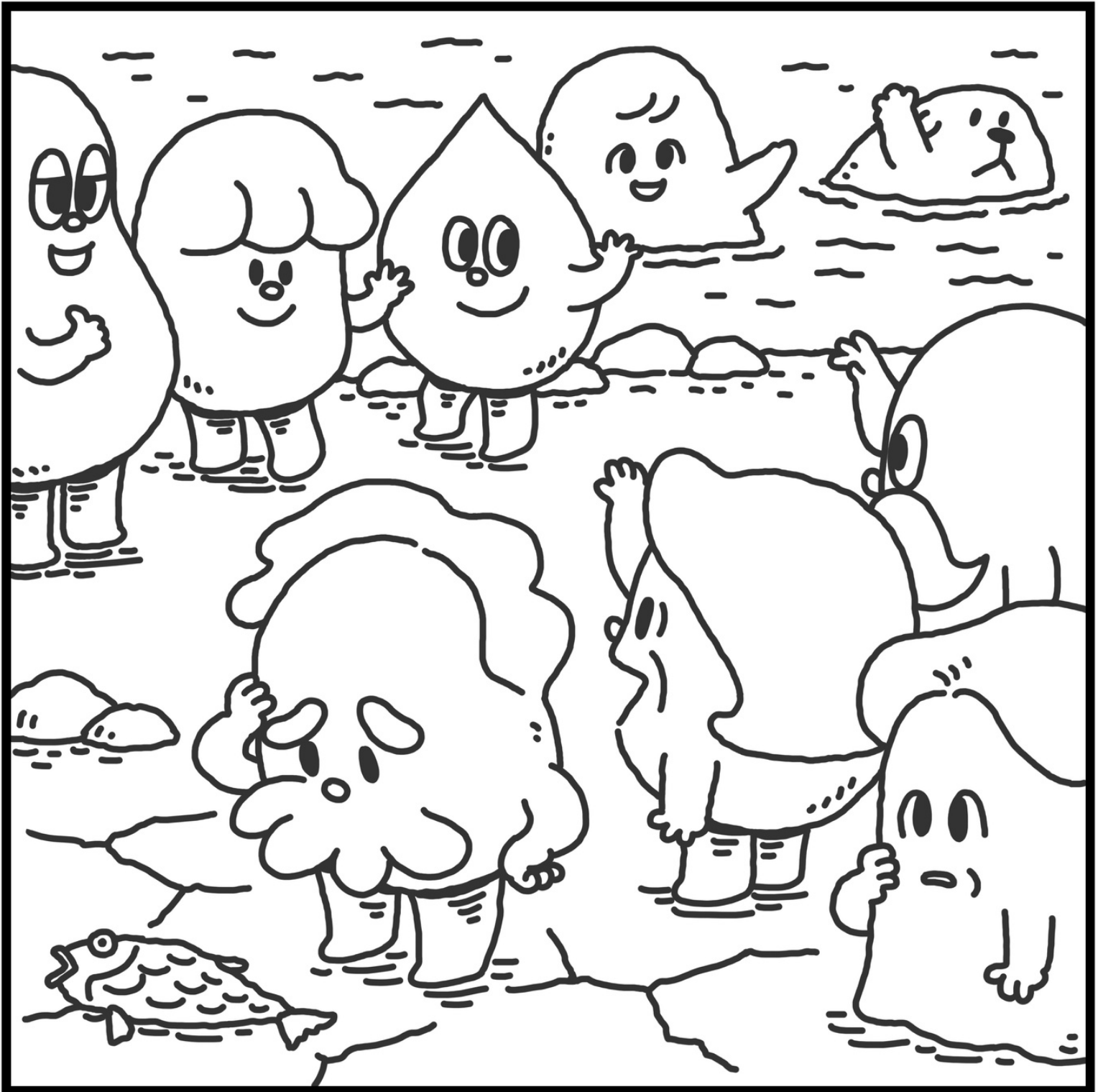
The Droplets have fun, but they are also very busy learning how to help humans.



Droplets give humans water to drink, to wash and to use so that they can grow crops to eat.

Without Droplets, humans cannot live.

Droplets are life for humans.



When Droplets become 10 years old, they must go on a special journey to meet humans.

"Good-bye young droplets!", says the elder Droplets.

Elder Droplets are worried because there is less water in the river due to climate change.

"Be careful on your way down the river, Droplets!"



Droplet Songsong meets her human first.

Droplet Songsong sees a woman and a girl carrying water pots across the deep forest.

“Oh! I will follow them”, thinks Droplet Songsong.



Droplet Songsong meets many other women and girls.

"Humans walk so long to meet me", Droplet Songsong thinks.

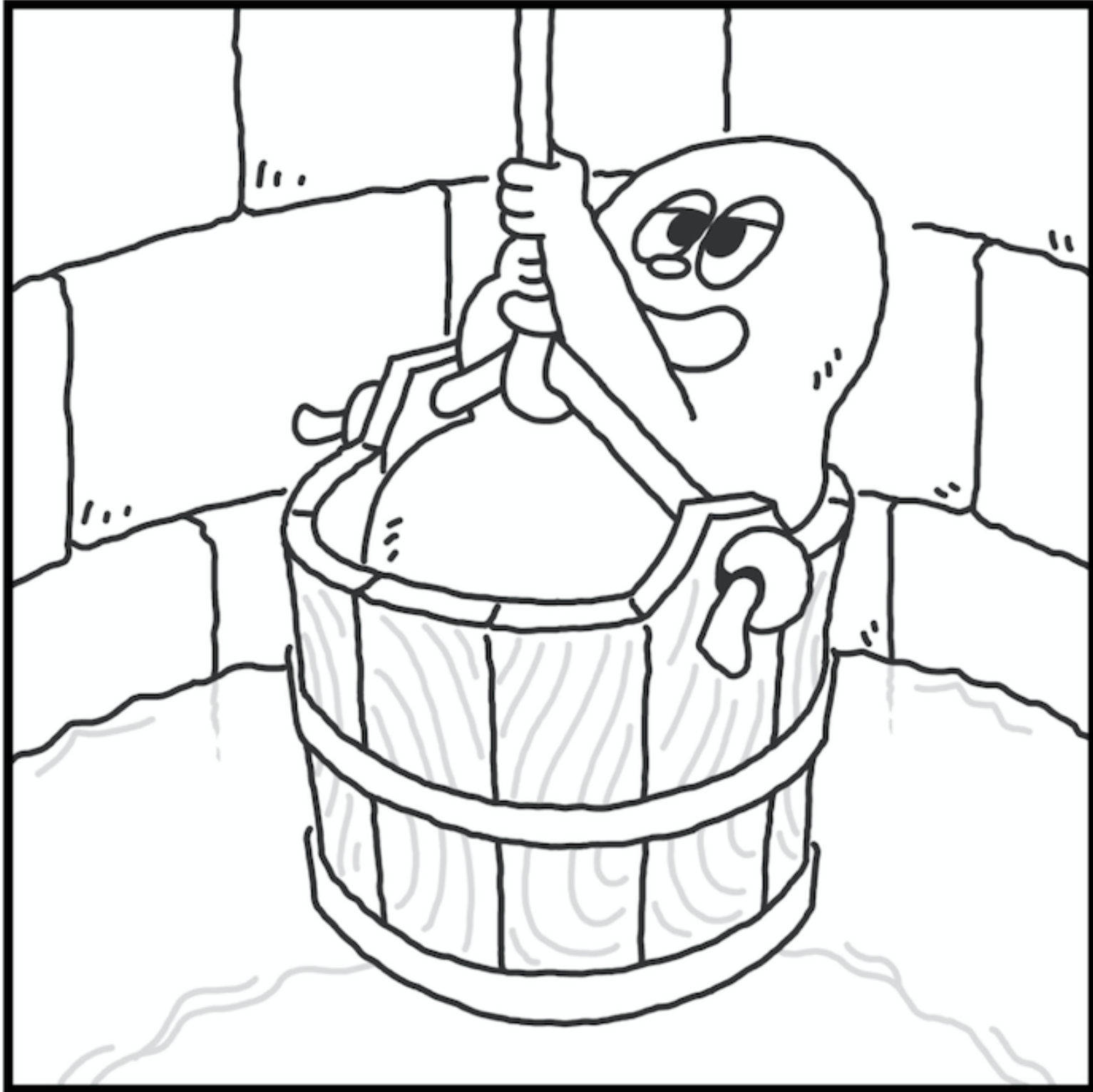
"Why are there only girls and women?"



Droplet Songsong jumps into the water pot to meet the rest of the family.

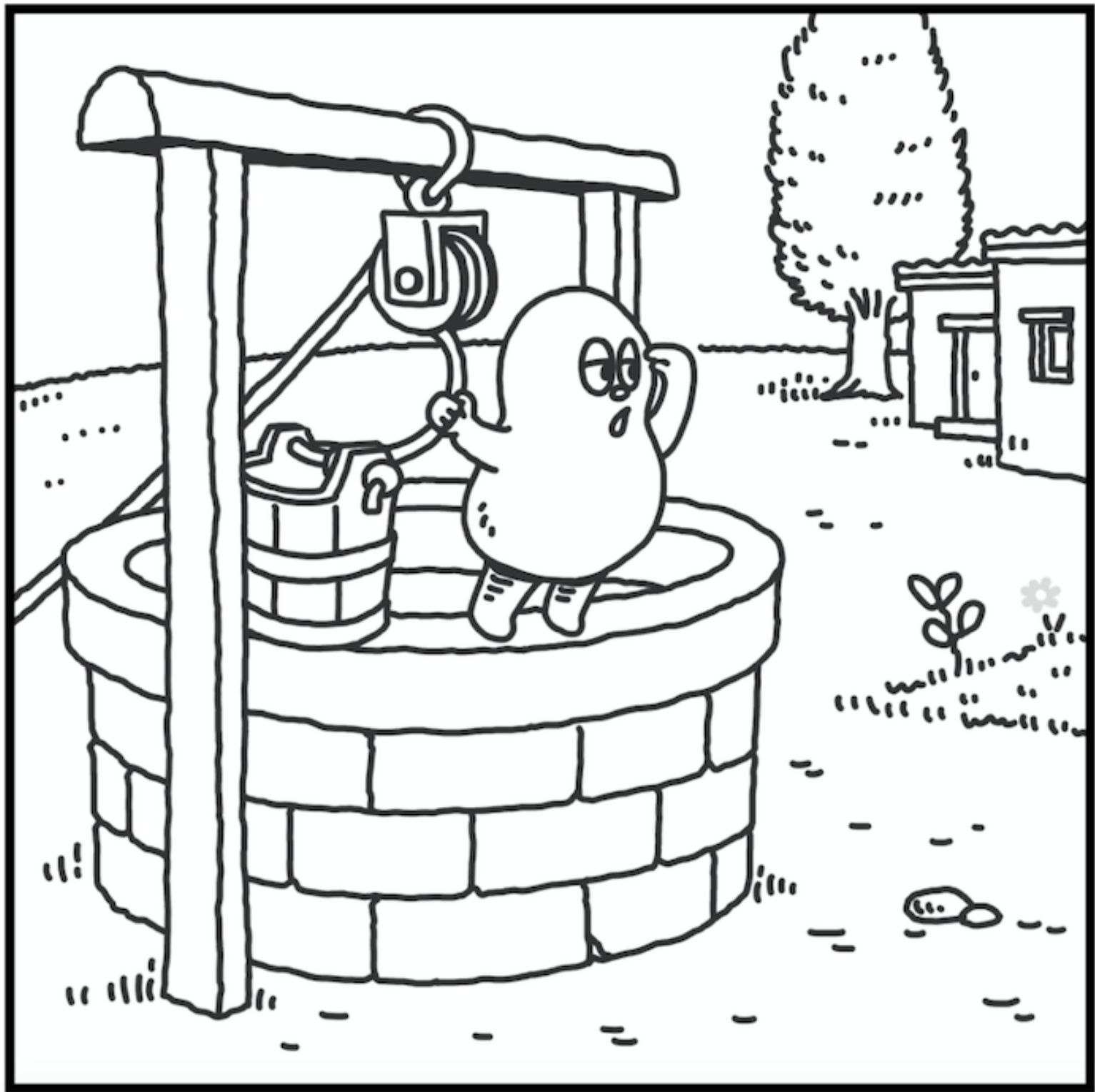
“There are snakes and spiders on the ground!”, screams Droplet Songsong.

“I did not know that this journey would be so rough and risky!”



Meanwhile, Droplet *Mini* travels on the river and reaches a water well.

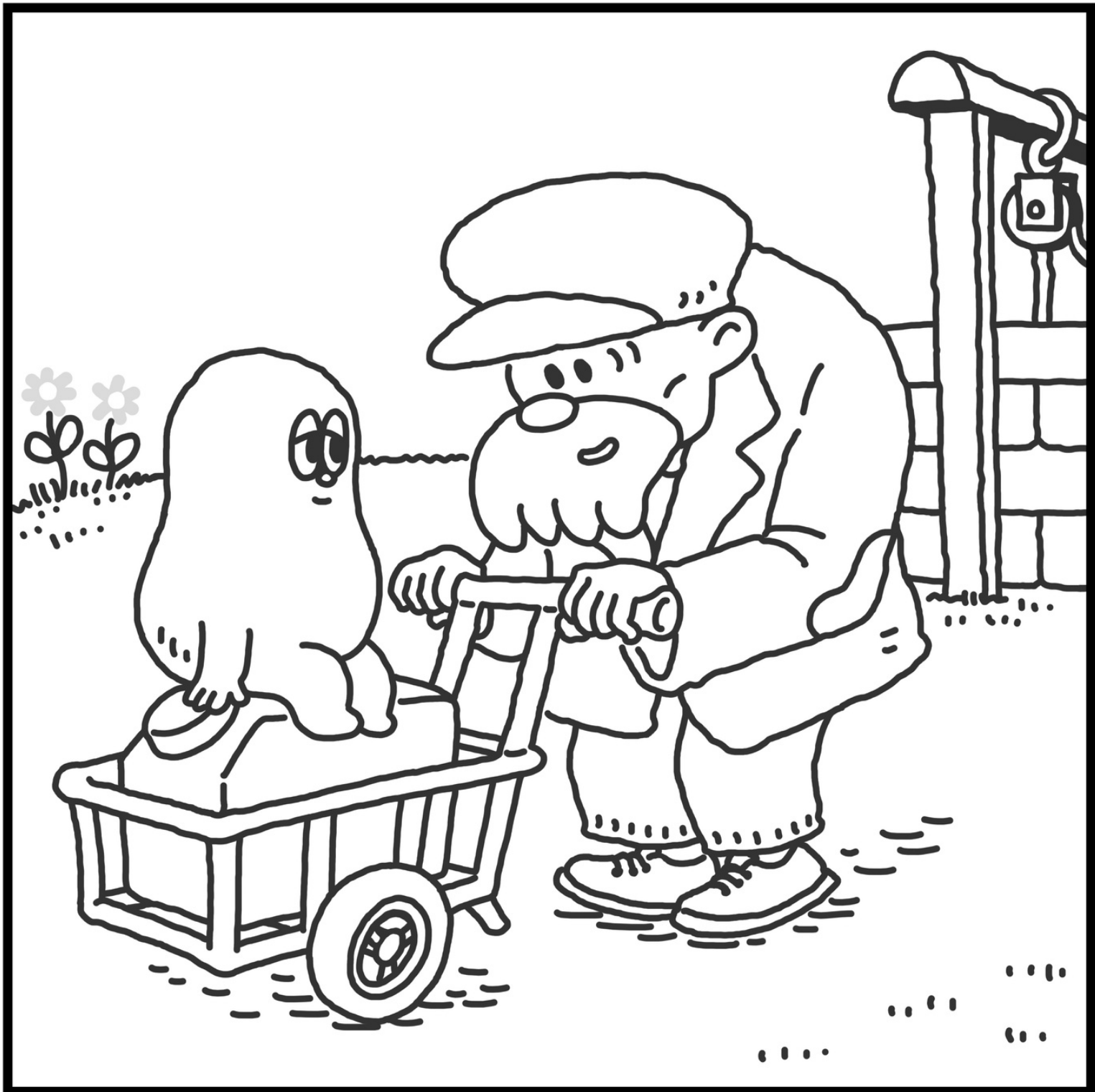
There is a bucket to bring Droplet *Mini* up to the ground.



Droplet *Mini* climbs up and looks around.

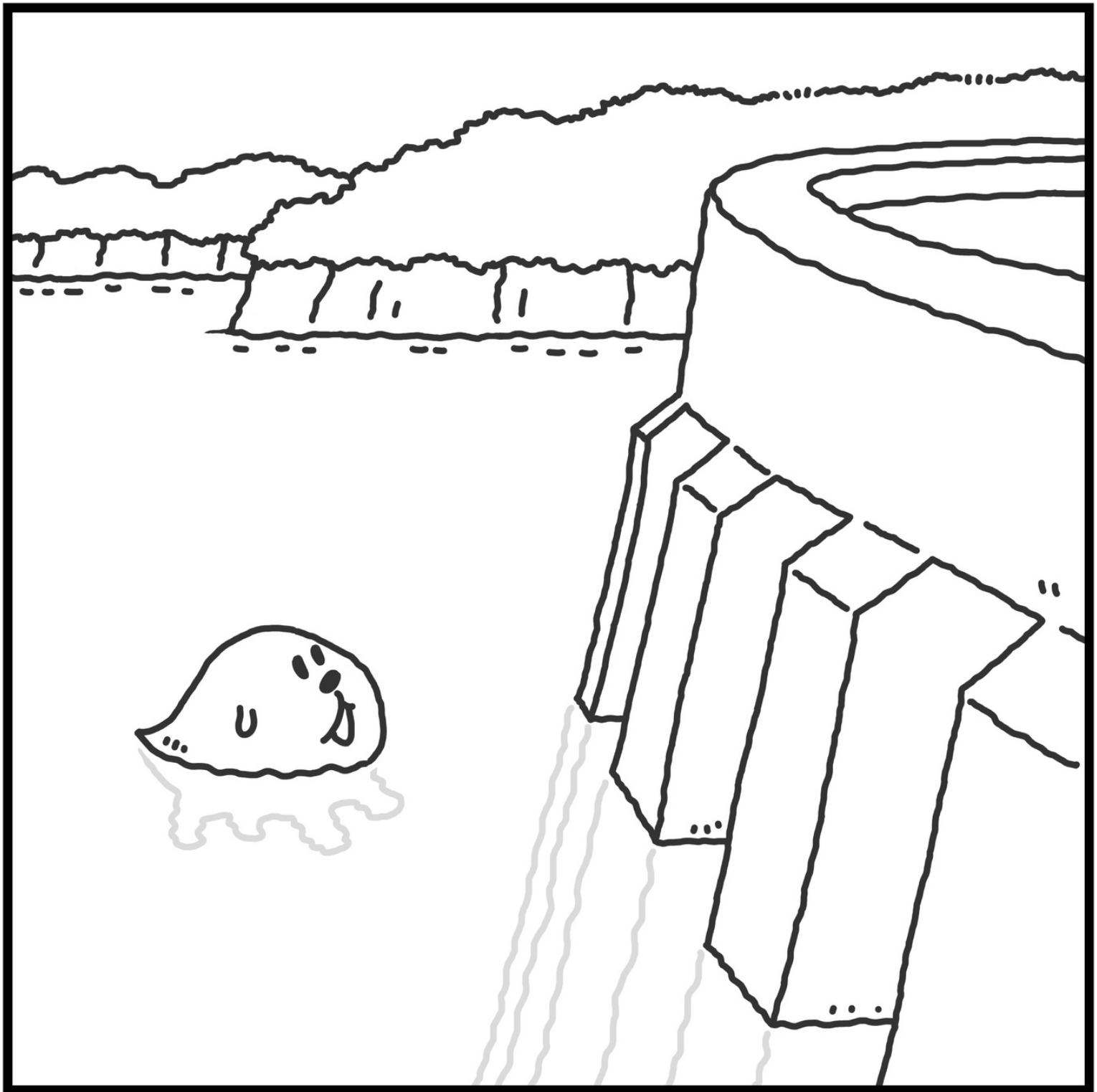
“Where am I? Ah-ha! I am at a village.”

There are very few houses nearby and the field is very large.



Droplet *Mini* meets an elderly gentleman, who is too weak to push the water trolley.

Droplet *Mini* wonders:
“Why can’t I meet this elderly man at his house?”



On the other side of the mountain, Droplet *Midoogi* is in a dam.

It is very quiet place with no sign of humans.

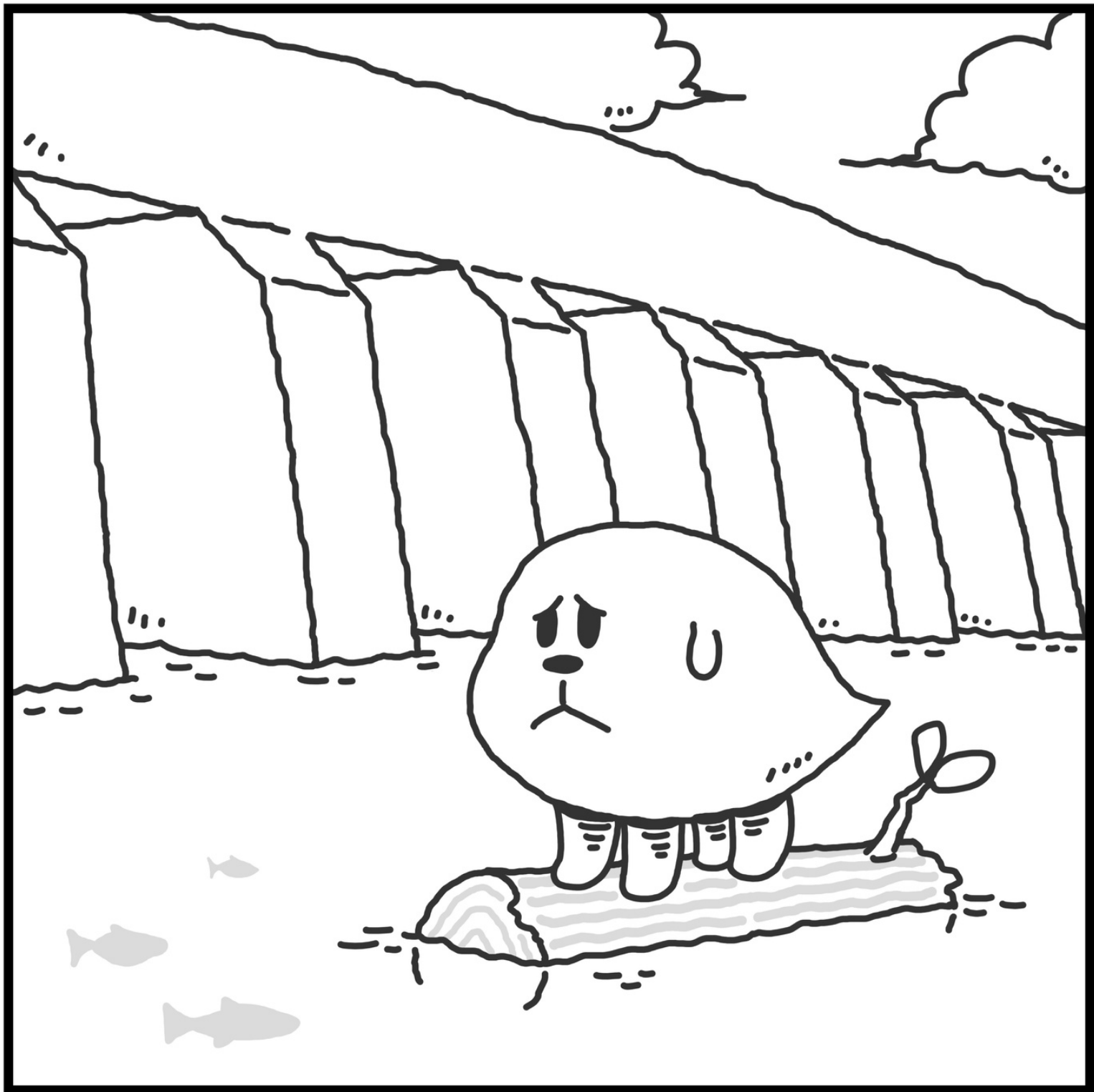
Droplet *Midoogi* thinks:
"When will I meet my human and finish this journey?"



Droplet *Midoogi* can see humans nearby.

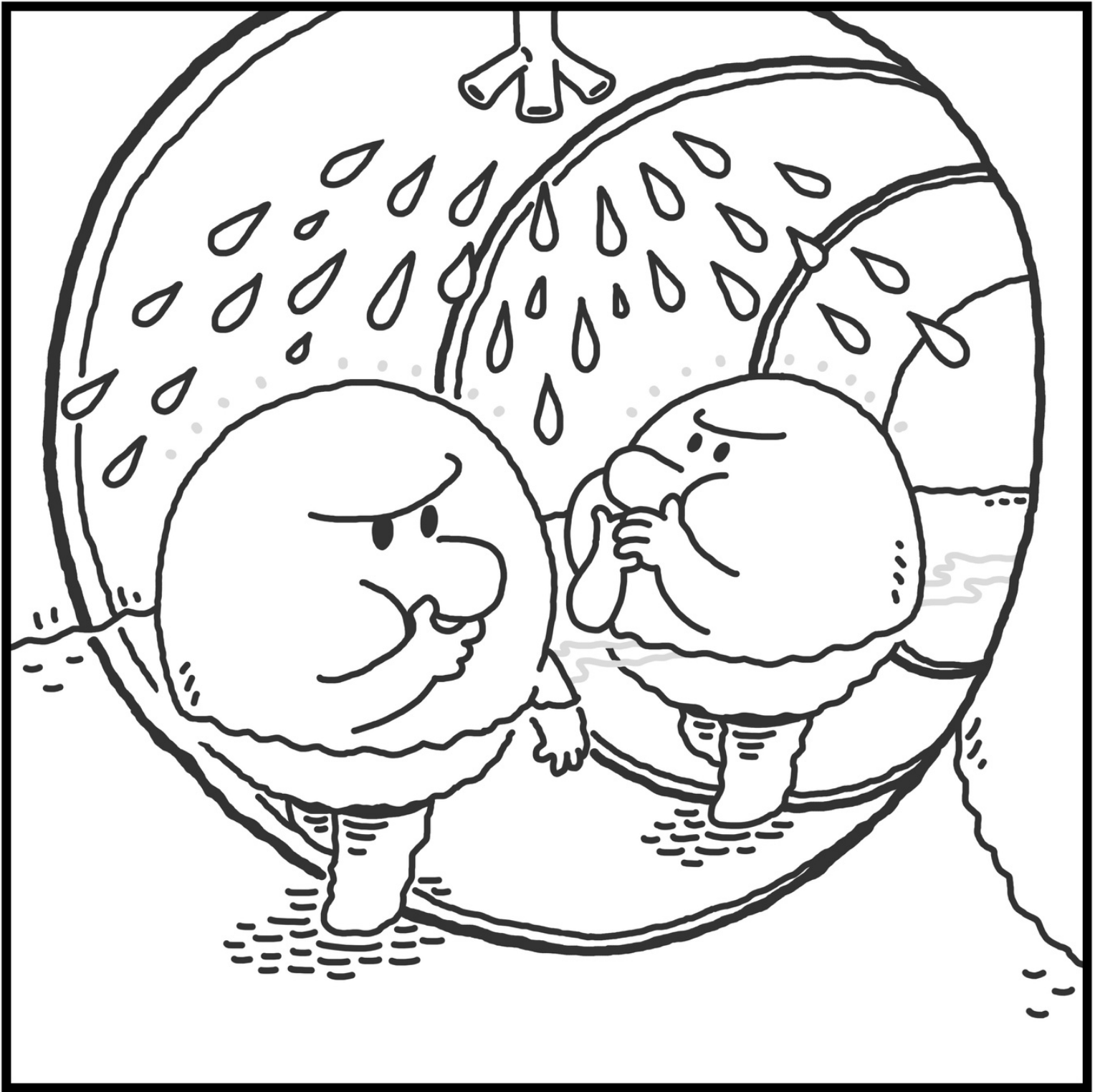
Excited, Droplet *Midoogi* screams: "Hello humans, you look thirsty. I can help!"

But the humans cannot hear Droplet *Midoogi*.



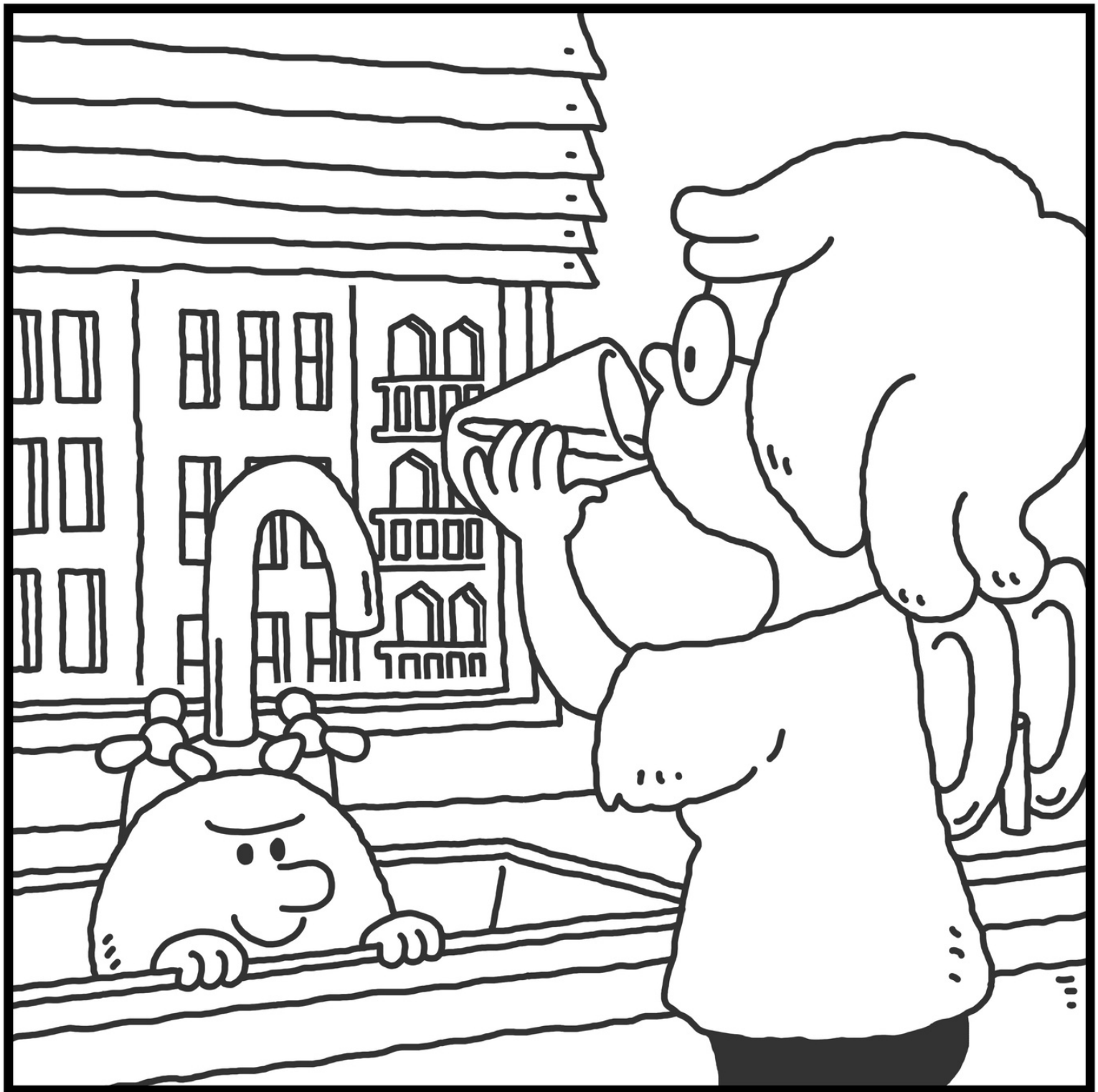
Stuck in the dam, Droplet *Midoogi* is bored.

“I don’t need to travel far... I just want to meet those humans who are right next to me.”



The *Twinnies* Droplets, on the other hand, travel far through the metal pipe. Here, all droplets take a shower to clean up.

“Oh, these chemicals stink!”, screams the *Twinnies* Droplets. “And these pipes stink too!”



Once cleaned up, *Twinnies* Droplets reach the human in an apartment in a big city.

Older *Twinnies* says:
“That was an easy travel! I wonder if others had an easy travel like this.”



Older *Twinn* is happy that he finished his journey.

But Younger *Twinn* is in trouble. Something happened to her after the shower, and she is not fully cleaned up.

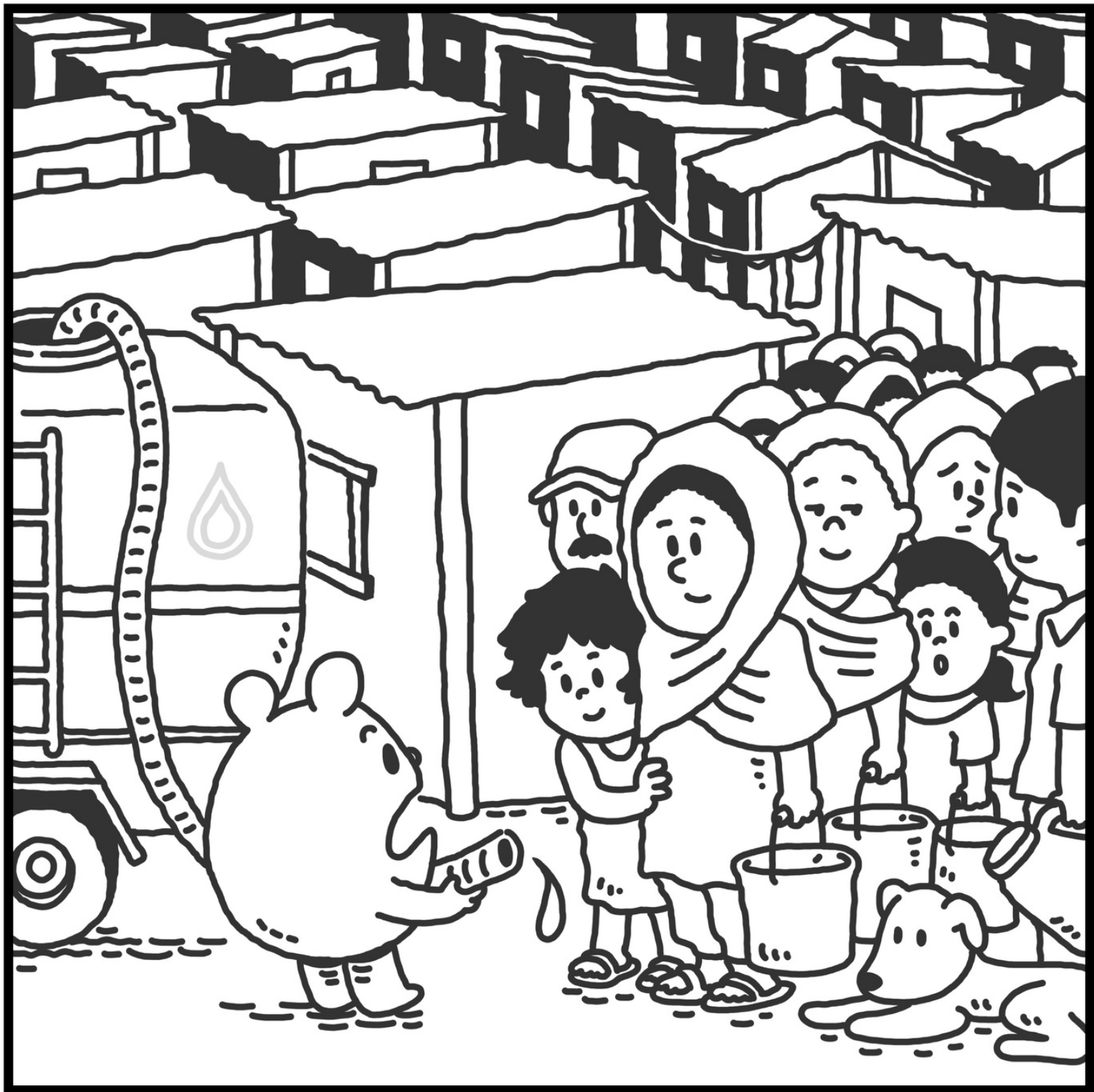
Younger *Twinn* accidentally makes her human sick!

“I failed my journey!”, she regrets.



Their friend Droplet *Doldal* is in a water tank truck.
Droplet *Doldal* can feel that she is on the road.

“It has been several hours and other Droplets in the water truck are getting sick. Where are we going to?”



Droplet *Doldal* takes a peek and sees many people in a line. "They must be all waiting for us!", she thinks.

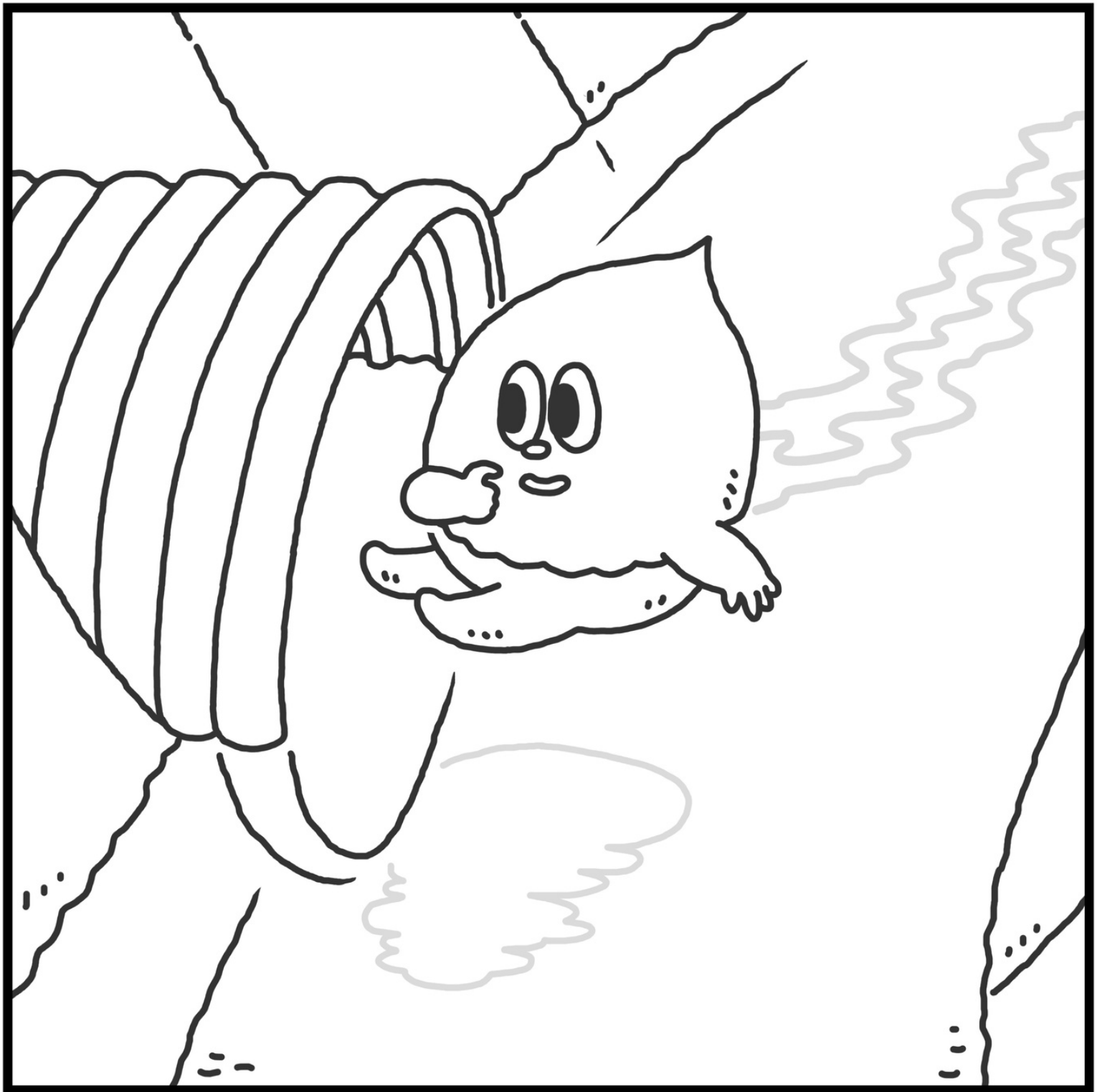
Behind the humans, she sees so many tiny houses. "Wow, so many people live here. I guess this is what the humans call a 'slum'."



Droplet *Doldal* is happy, she finally meets her human. But she sees that not all humans have met their Droplets.

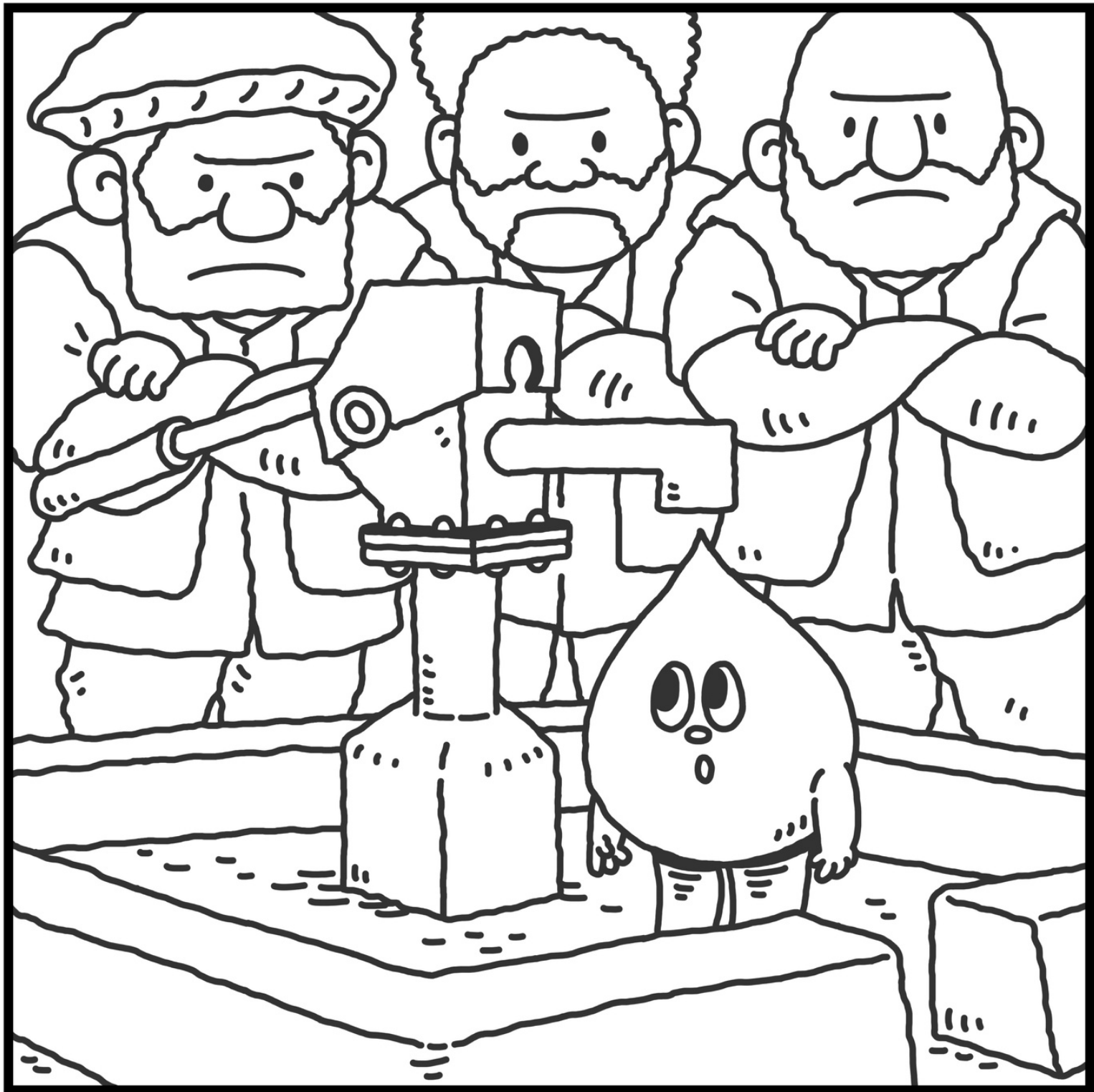
Droplet *Doldal* wonders:

“There are so many Droplets where I come from. How come these humans cannot meet Droplets?”

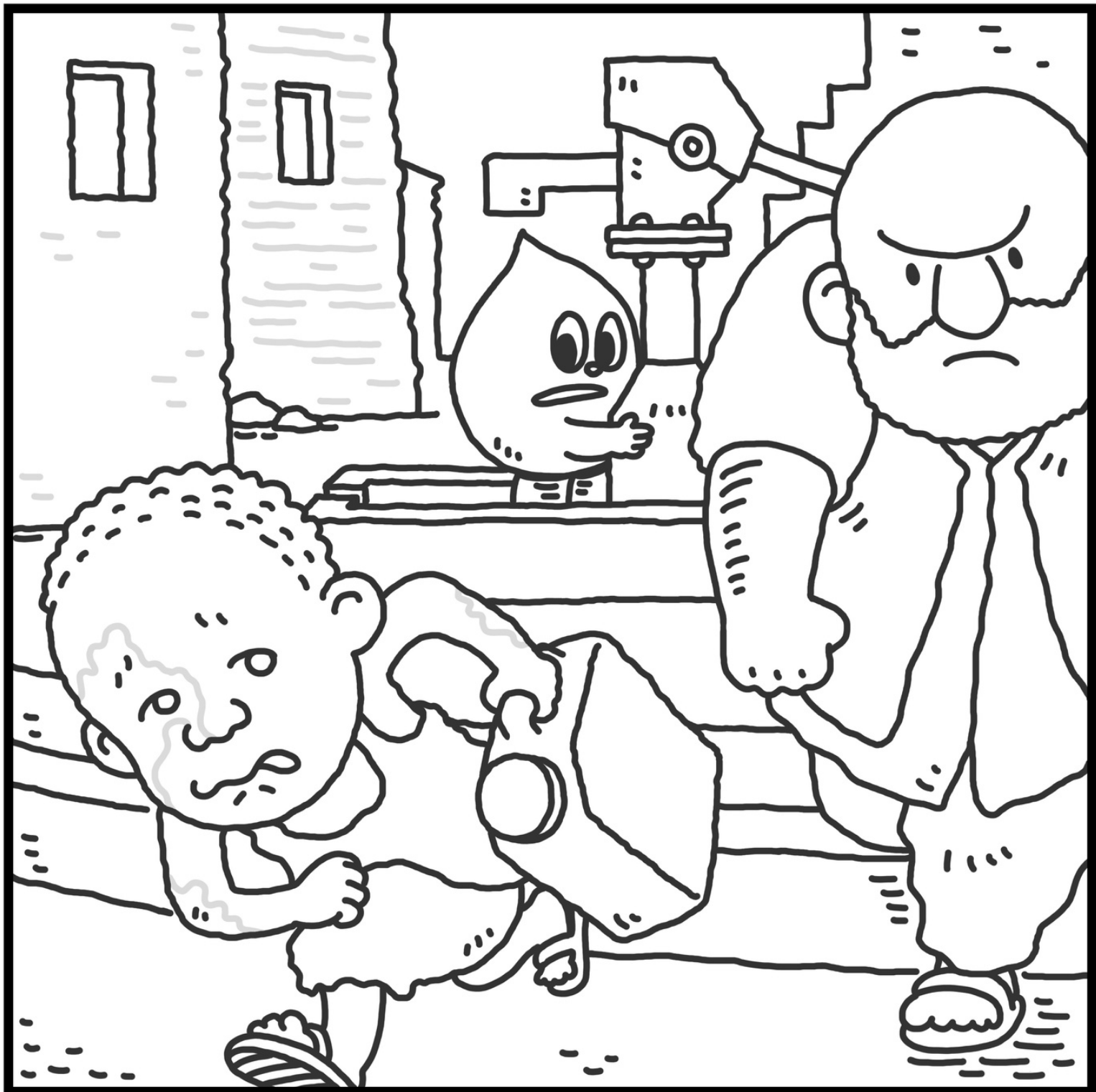


Her friend *Droplet Caramel* also travels far, first in the canals and then taking rubber pipes.

Droplet Caramel meets humans at a water pump in a village square.

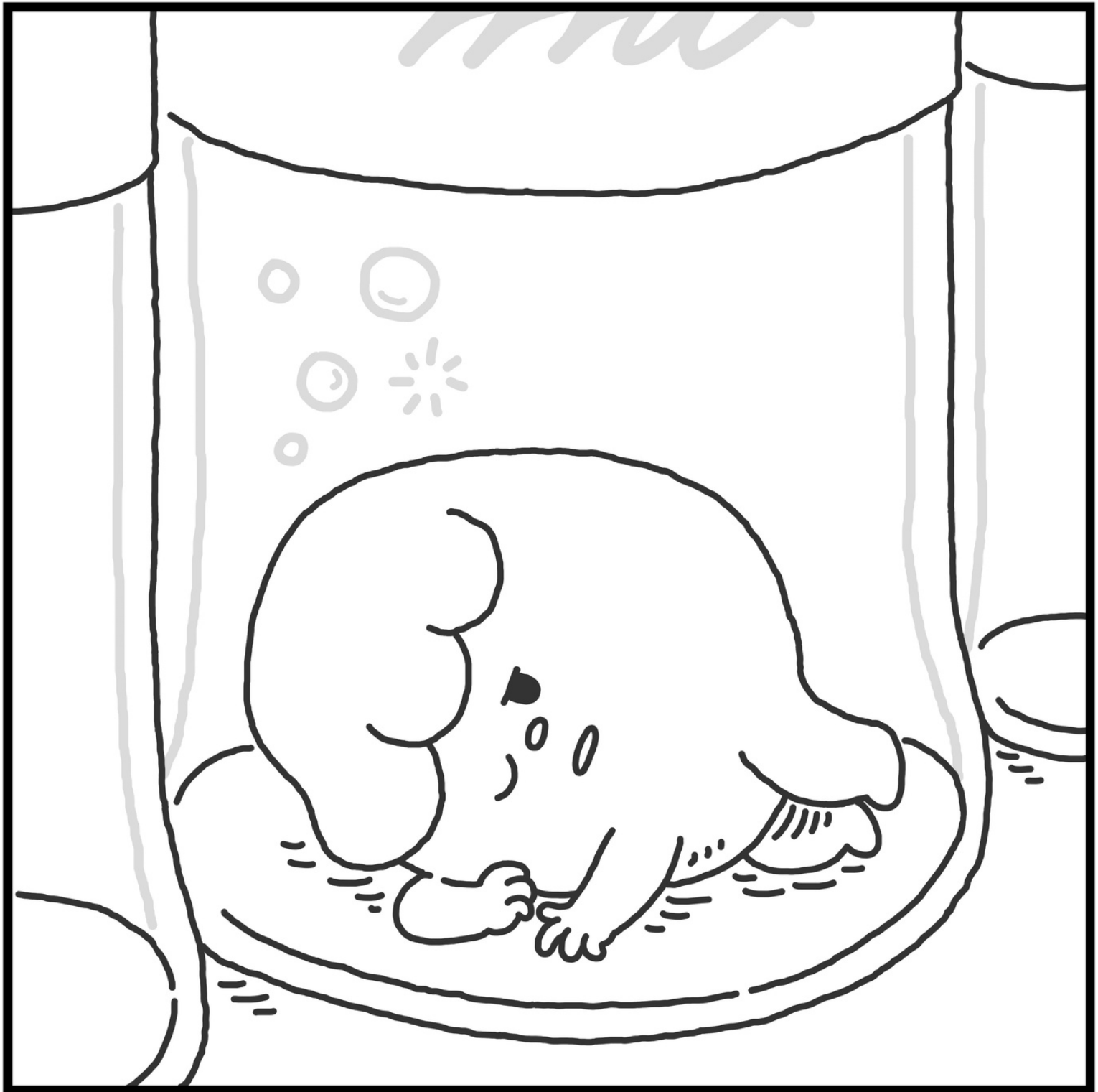


There are a group of large men surrounding the water pump: "Great! There are many people! But they look scary..."



Droplet Caramel see his human running home. The human is chased by large scary men.

“Oh no... I came so far to meet my human but he is risking his life to meet me! Will he come back for me?”



Droplet *Midge* takes a long nap during the travel.

She wakes up in a plastic water bottle, nicely stacked in a store.

Droplet *Midge* sees a boy.



“Why doesn’t the boy come and get me? I am right here!”, he wonders.

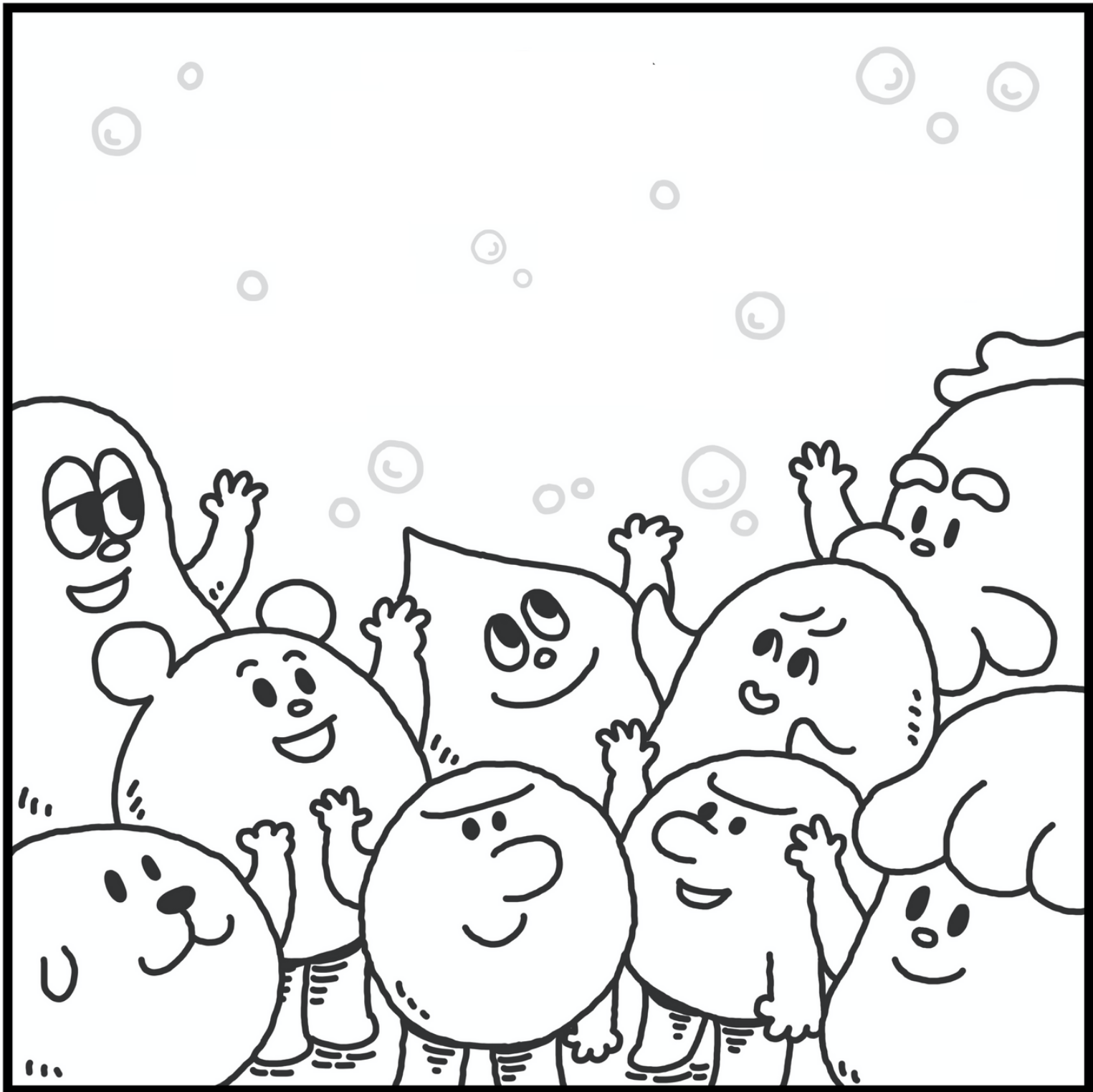
The boy looks at Droplet *Midge* and then looks at the bread next to the bottle.

The boy finally takes the bread and pays for it.



Droplet *Midge* is stuck in this plastic water bottle, getting old on the shelf.

Droplet *Midge* is confused: "Other Droplets had no problem reaching their humans, even if they had little money. Why can't I meet mine?"



All the Droplets think about their journey:
“Wow, the journey to meeting humans is tough.
Humans face many challenges to welcome us.”

Some Droplets have failed their journey and are sad.

Others have successfully finished their journey and made
their humans happy.

All humans need Droplets whoever they are, wherever they are.

Enough Droplets should travel safely to meet humans. This is what humans call “the human right to water”.



srwatsan@ohchr.org



[@SRWatSan](https://twitter.com/SRWatSan)



[@SRWatSan](https://www.facebook.com/SRWatSan)



[@unsrwatsan](https://www.instagram.com/unsrwatsan)