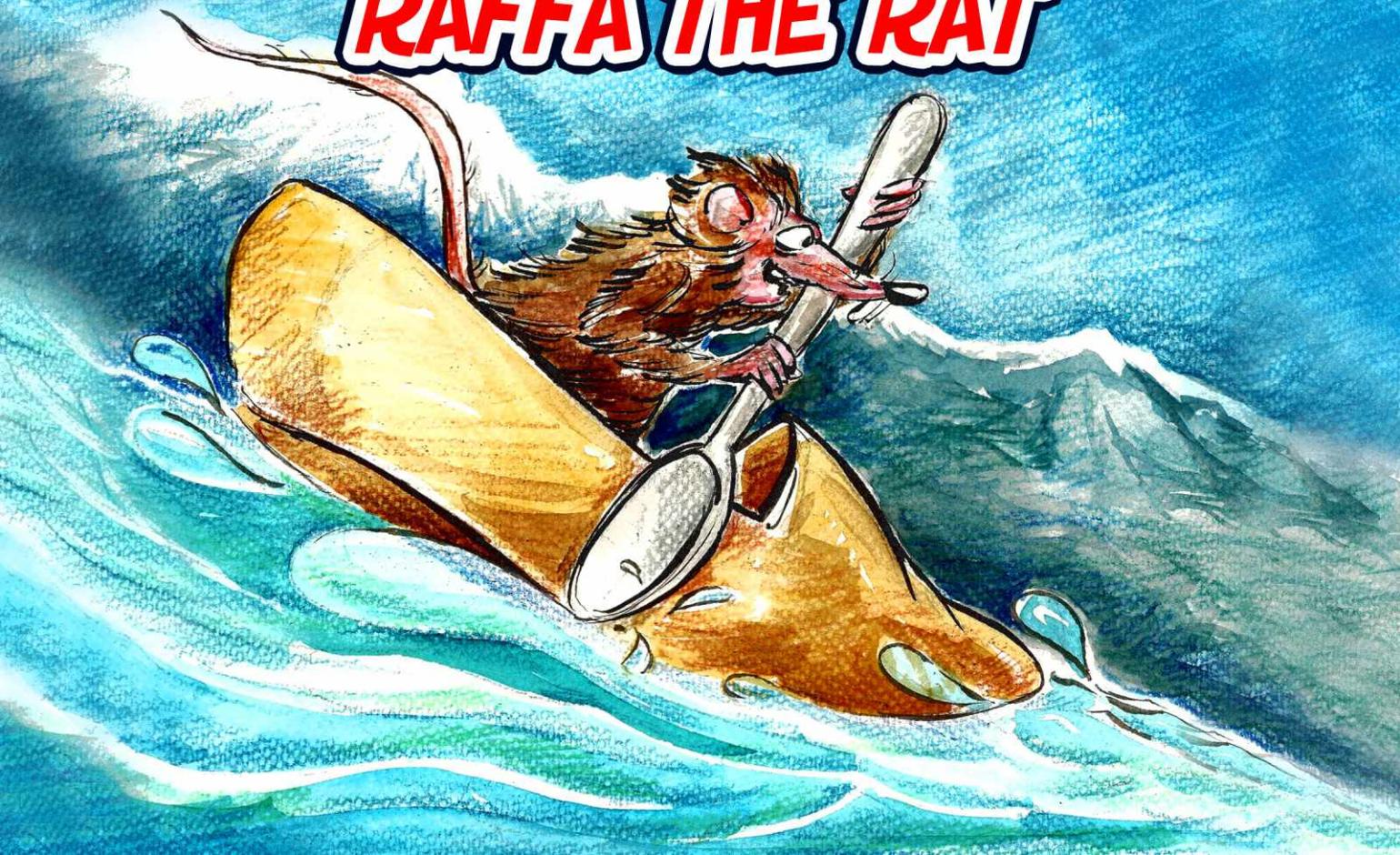


RAFFA THE RAT



RAFFA THE RAT

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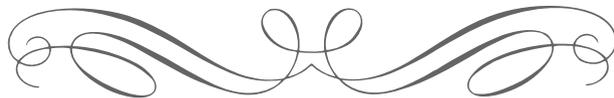
Islamabad, August 2012

The contents of this book are meant to create awareness only. The work is purely fictional and does not intend to represent anyone living or deceased.

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Born in Pakistan, Raffa's adventures, through the varying landscapes of his country began when he was 10 years old.

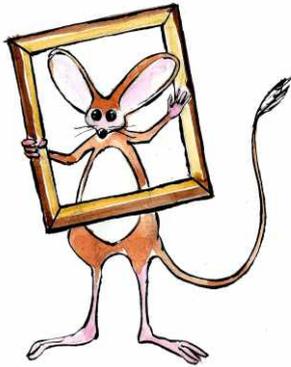
A few years ago (October 8th, 2005), his country suffered from one of the biggest earthquakes that shook the mountainous regions of the North. The effects of the earthquake were felt thousands of kilometres away from the epicentre and the damage was widespread. Situated in a seismically active zone, the country experiences earthquakes regularly that vary in intensity and are unpredictable.

In 2010 and 2011, Pakistan suffered from severe floodings that were a result of climate change. Triggered by the monsoon rains, the floods have affected all provinces from Gilgit-Baltistan to Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Khyber Pukhtunkhawa, Punjab, Baluchistan and Sindh.

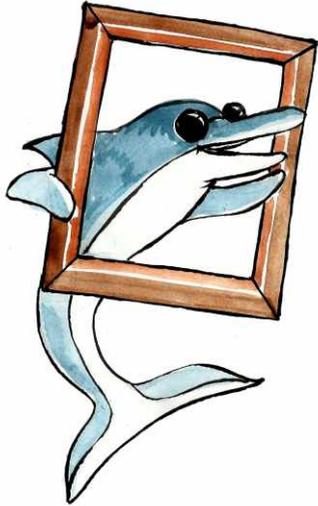
Chronic droughts affected parts of Baluchistan for years due to water scarcity, and though disasters caused by natural phenomenon cannot be avoided, however, the severity of their affects may be minimized through planning and preparation.

Raffa's journey takes him through these problems and he faces thirst, hunger, and fatigue. This great but unexpected journey takes him along the River Indus into the sewerage of Karachi where a whole new life begins. Challenged by this unknown mega-city, Raffa uses his newly learned methods of adaptation and turns it into the tools of a re-born 'city-changer'.

On his journey, Raffa made two friends: the Jerboa and the Blind Dolphin. These friends were very special because there are so few of them in this world.



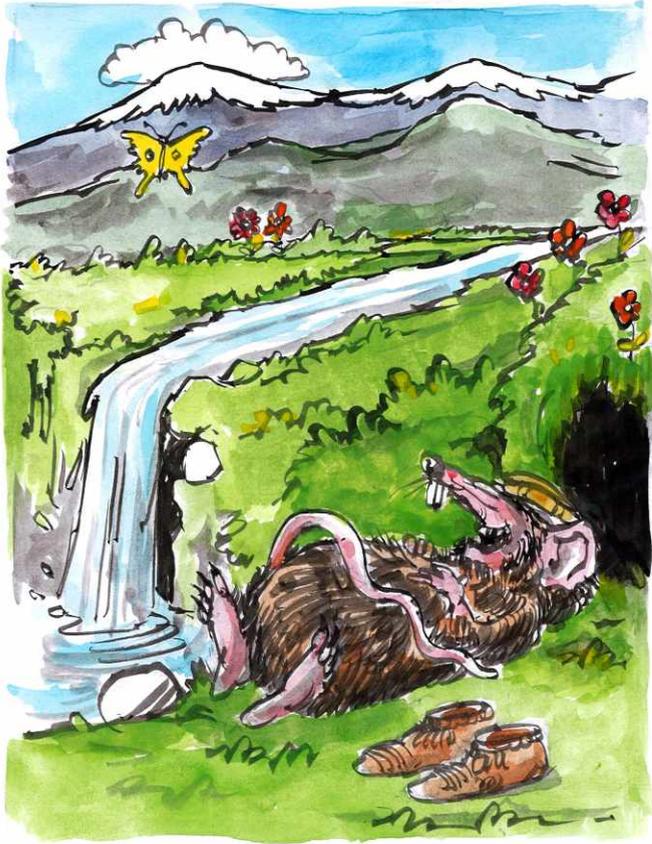
Jerboa: A Jerboa is a small rodent that looks like a mouse. It jumps with its very long hind legs and has a long tail. The Jerboa in this book is different from other Jerboas because of its extremely long ears. This species of Jerboa is on the verge of extinction due to man made changes in the environment, which are threatening their existence.



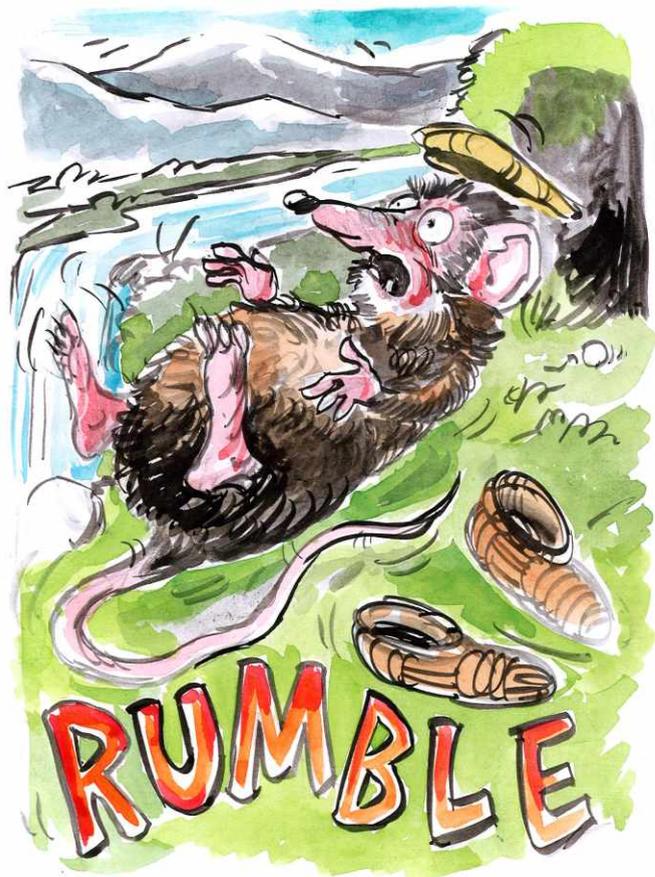
Indus River Dolphin: Also known as the blind Dolphin for its lack of sight, the Indus River Dolphin is an endangered species. Indigenous to the Indus River, these dolphins are dying out due to the increased pollution of the river. The Blind Dolphin has very small eyes, almost the size of a pin hole and they navigate through the river by swimming very close to the basin. The blind dolphin has no home other than the Indus River and their habitat must be protected to make sure that they survive and are not the last of their kind.

Karachi: Karachi is the largest city of Pakistan and the capital of the province of Sindh. The city has an estimated population of 15 million, while the total metropolitan area has a population of over 18 million. Karachi is one of the world's most populous cities.

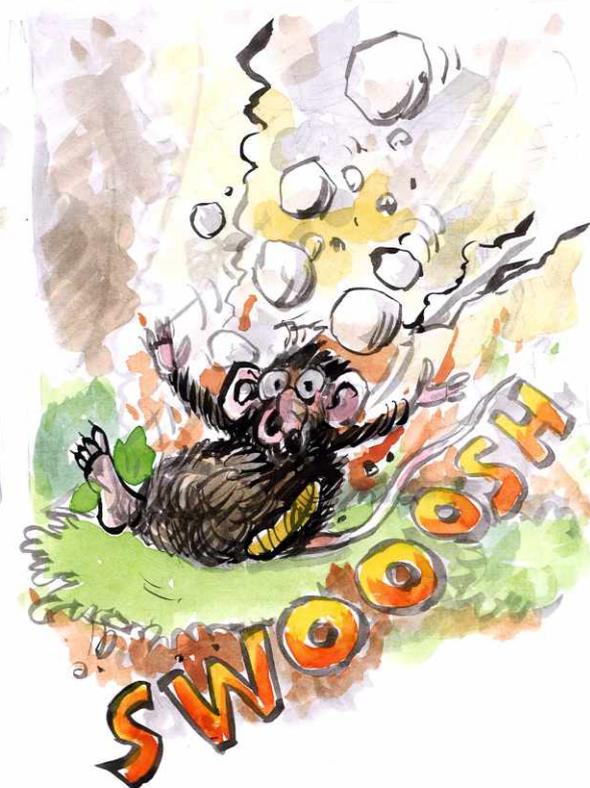
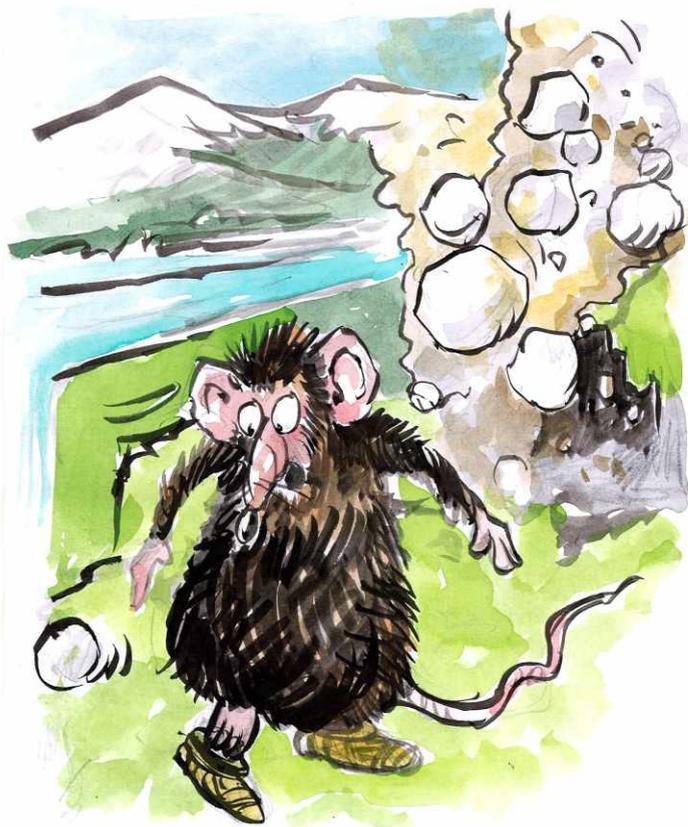
RAFFA THE RAT



Raffa lived a very comfortable life, surrounded by grass, fresh air, trees, shade, clean water and shady clouds in the sky



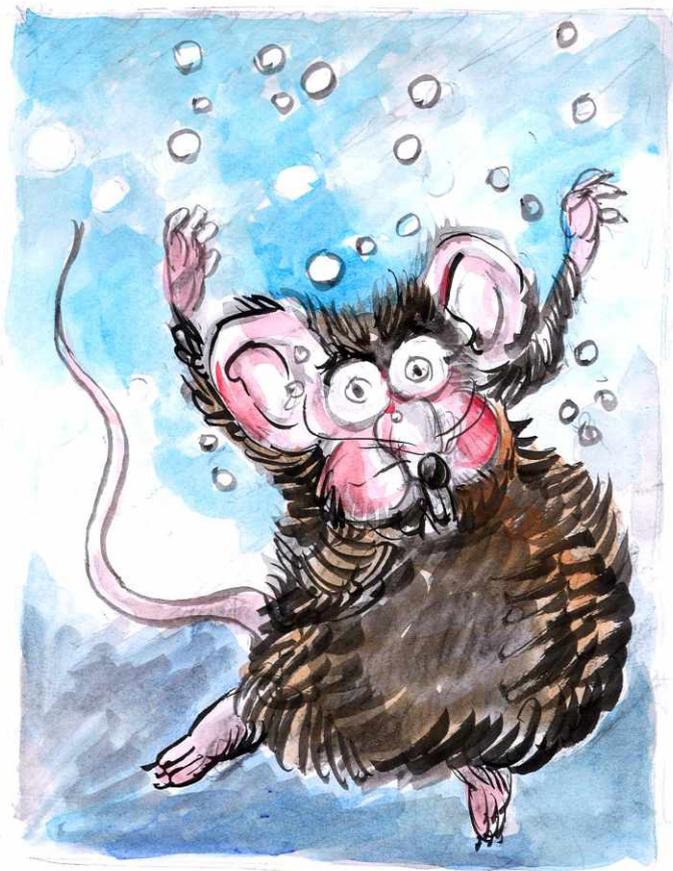
...until one day, the earth trembled under his feet.



As rocks start to fall, Raffa hurriedly looks for his shoe, but it is too late,



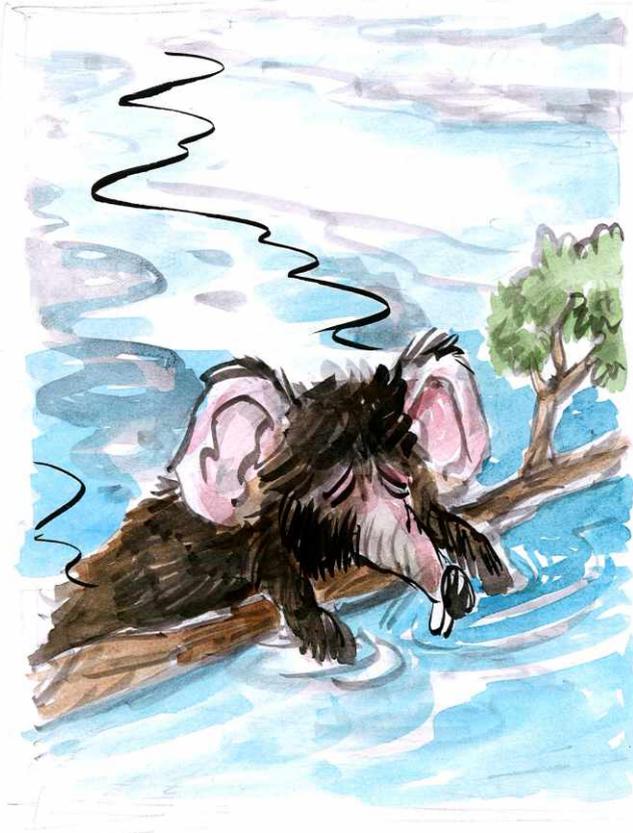
in an instant, he slips down the steep slide.



Raffa doesn't know how to swim and he is in danger of drowning!



With an ultimate effort, he grabs a nearby floating branch and is carried down-stream for hours, leaving him sleepy, hungry and thirsty!



Soon the currents take him to a house, half buried under a river of stones.



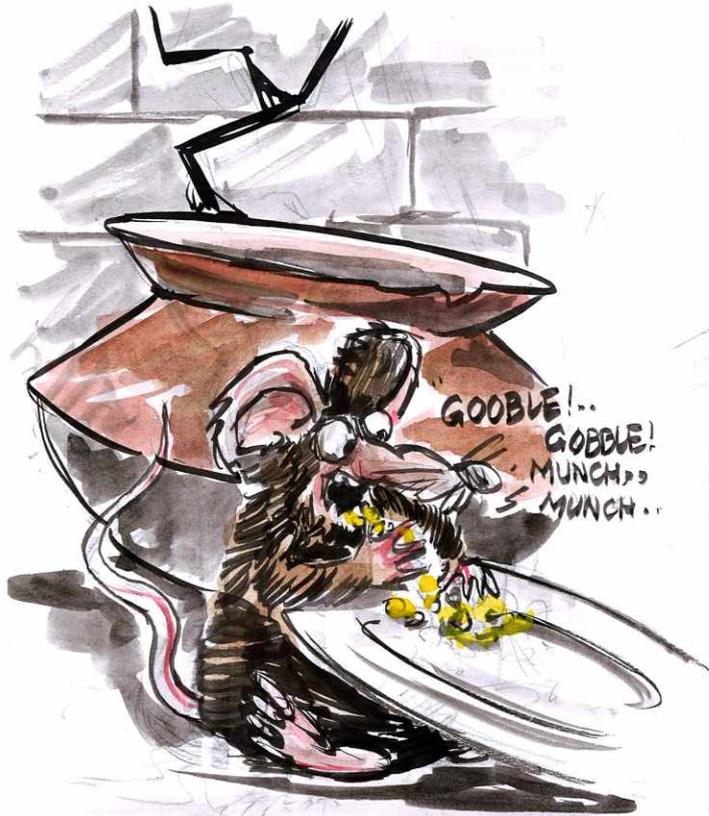
"Poor man," Raffa thinks, "he has lost his house"



Full of sorrow for the poor man, Raffa went in looking for something to eat.



Everything was wet and broken and there was food everywhere

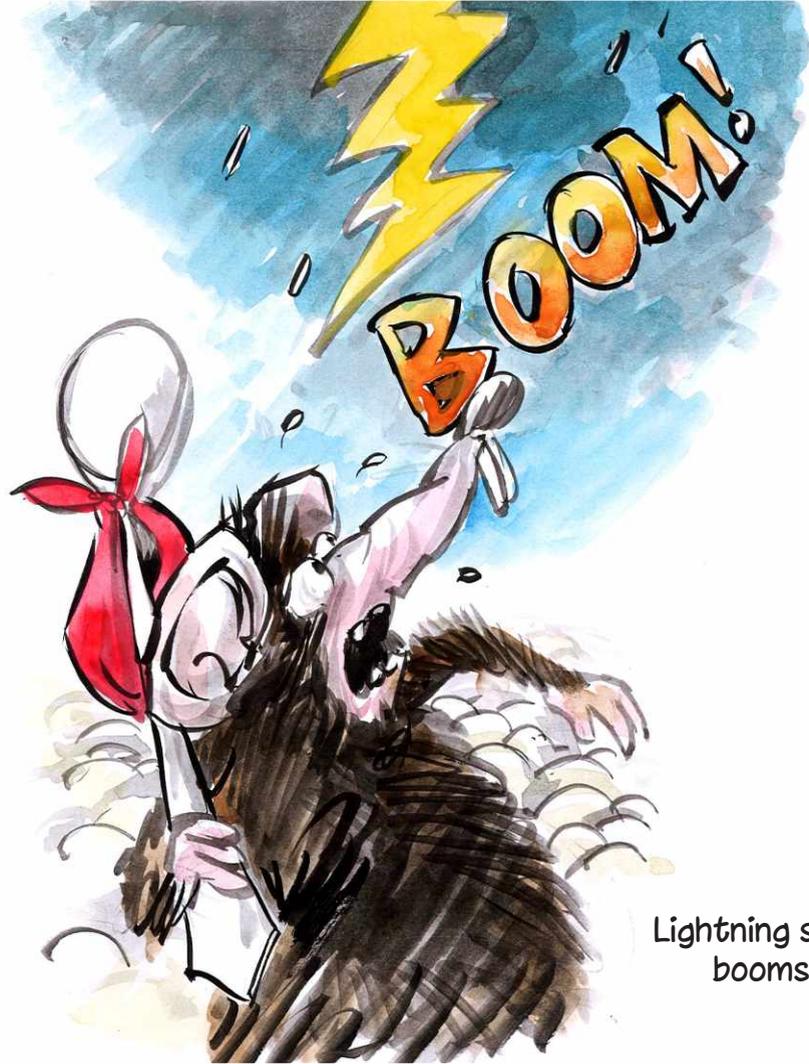




After having rested well and eaten enough, he takes some food for the road.



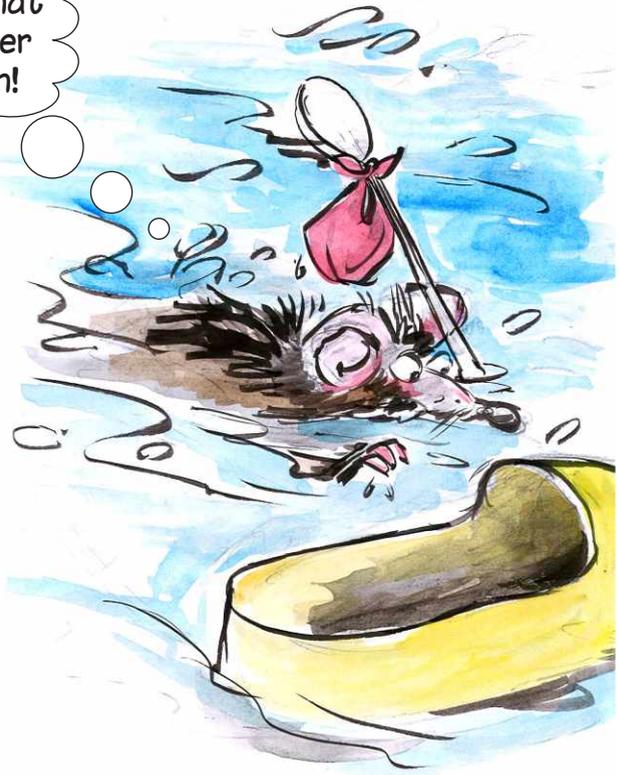
As he walks for hours, he goes through a devastated panorama where nothing seems to be left.



Lightning strikes with loud
booms of thunder!

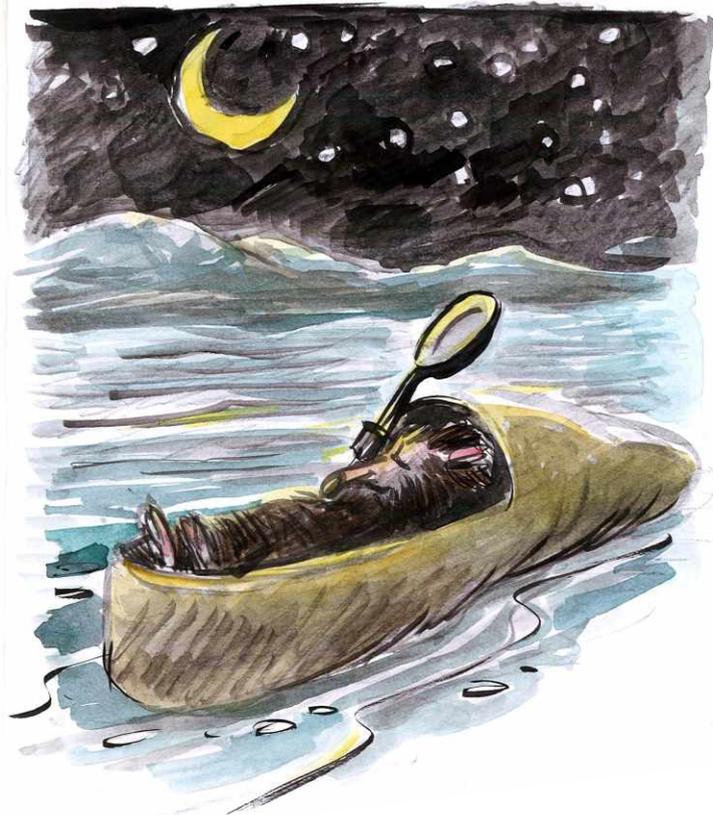


Mmm, I hope that
a shoe is better
than a branch!

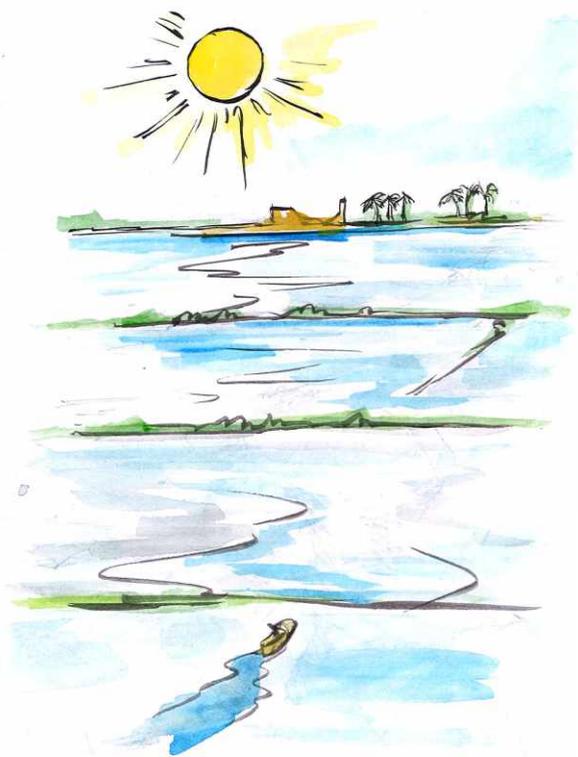


A huge wave takes him down the river again





Night falls and Raffa sleeps,
exhausted after rowing all day
with that heavy spoon



Morning comes. The sun shines and
though there is no river anymore, there is
water everywhere.



A small island catches his eye, where some stranded people are eating bananas



Raffa spots some of his kind
fighting for garbage



He suggests that the fresh banana
peels must be better to eat.

hmmmm...
This is wonderful



They all eat banana peels and from that day on, Raffa became a vegetarian



An intense sound is heard and all his new friends run away hurriedly.



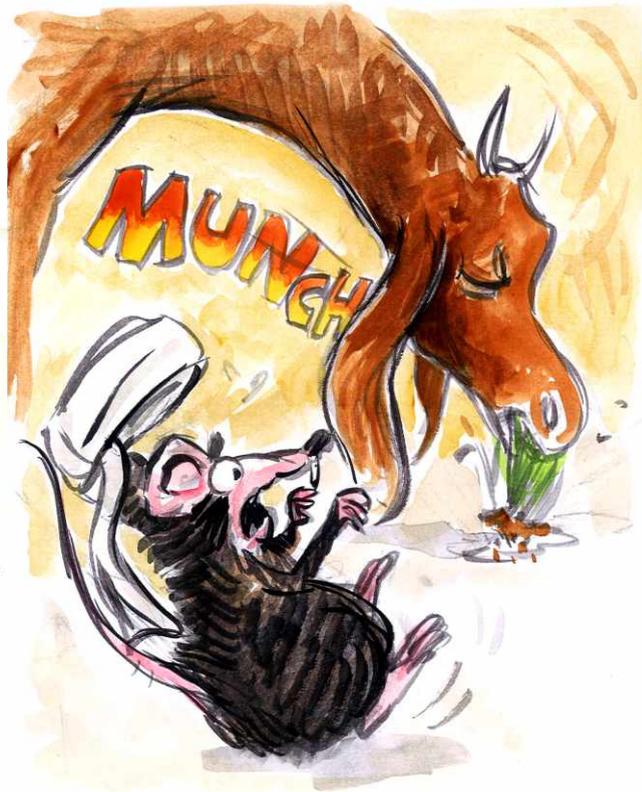
As Raffa wonders why they disappeared, a huge tornado engulfs him.



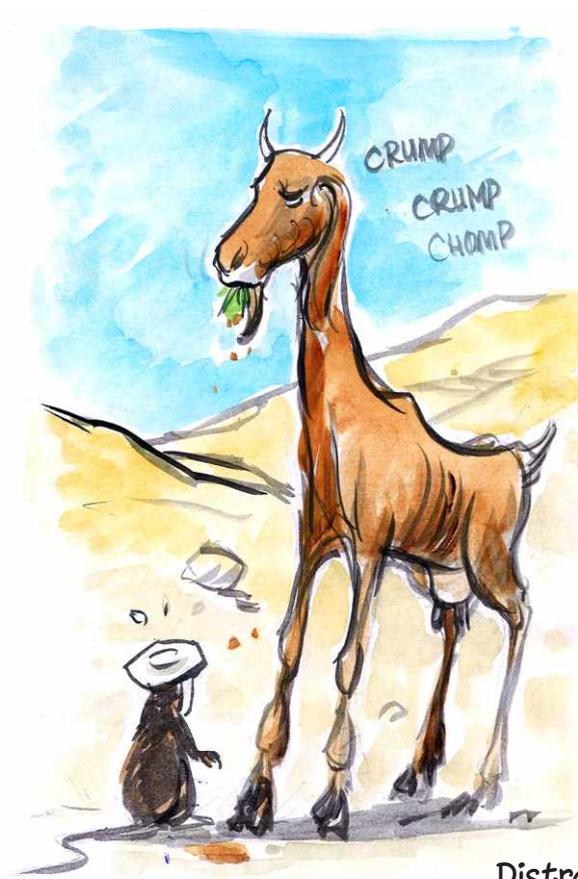
When the tornado stops, after hours of flying and nearly getting suffocated, he is suddenly released and a turban saves his life.



The landscape is dry, very dry and Raffa feels dizzy and thirsty.

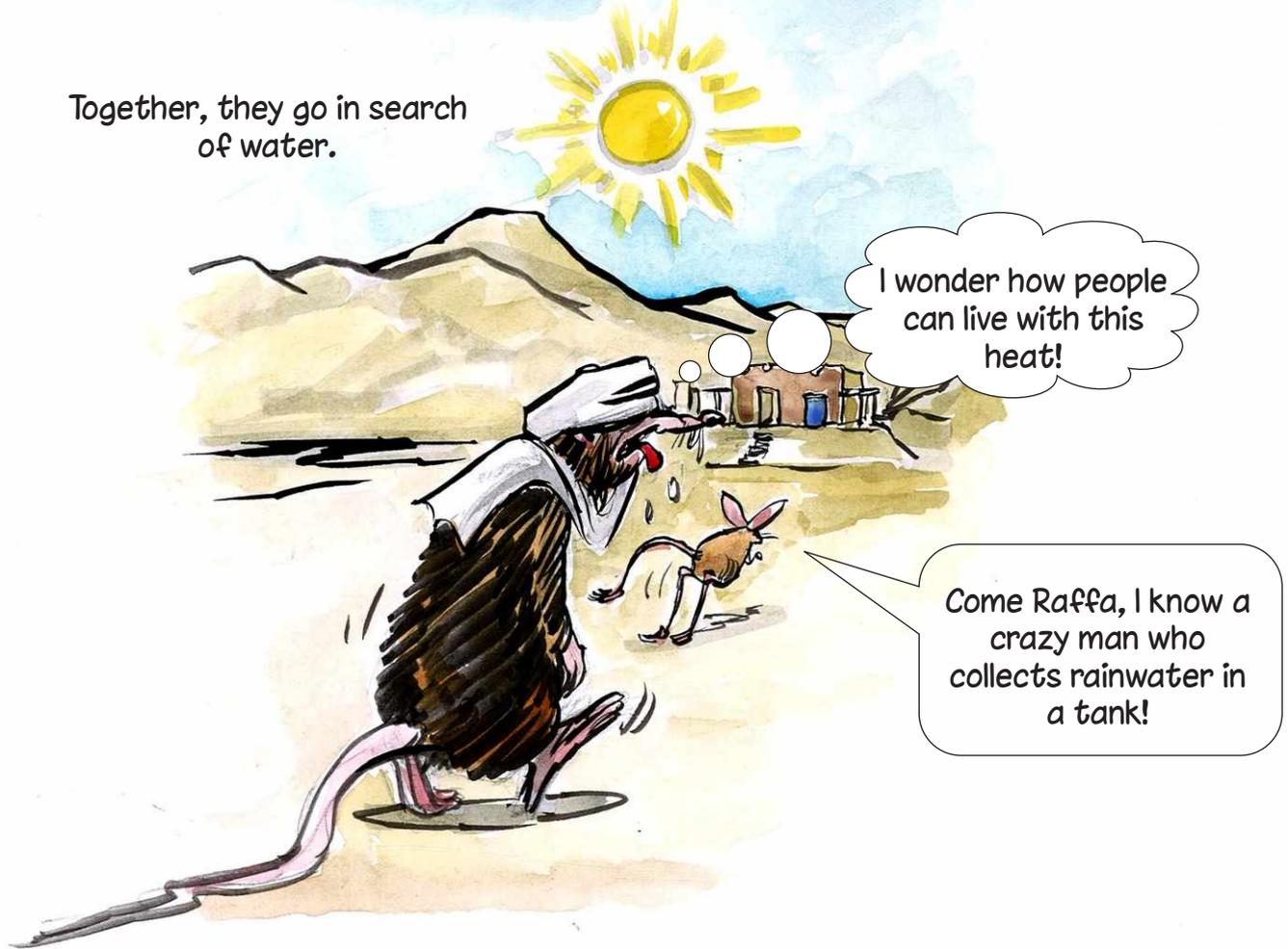


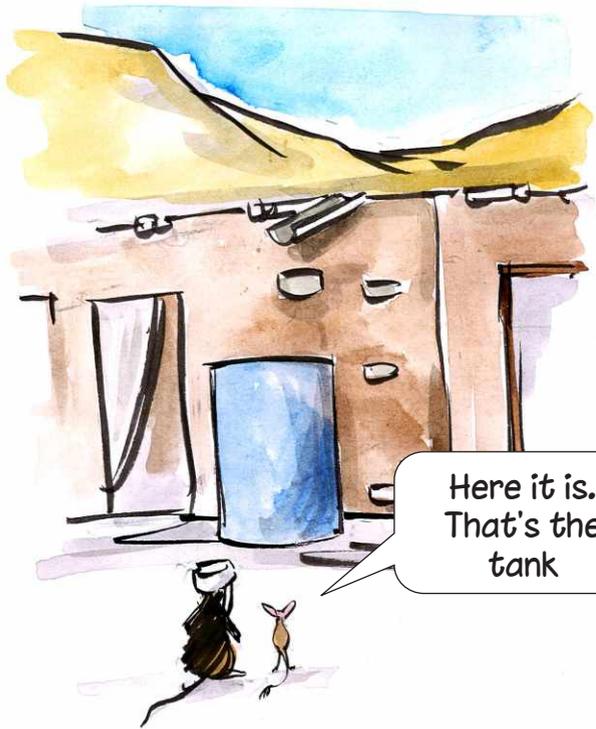
He sees some grass, and makes a quick run for it, but...



Distracted, Raffa notices the Jerboa. It looks more or less like his kind but jumps like a Kangaroo...

Together, they go in search
of water.





Here it is.
That's the
tank



Wow, it looks
fresh and clean!



The extremely sensitive ears of Jerboa detect a familiar sound...



they run away without having had a single sip of water...



Exhausted, Raffa believes he will die of thirst, when the Jerboa sees a bee passing by.



The bee takes them to a nice pond in
the middle of nowhere,



Raffa would like to stay here forever!!



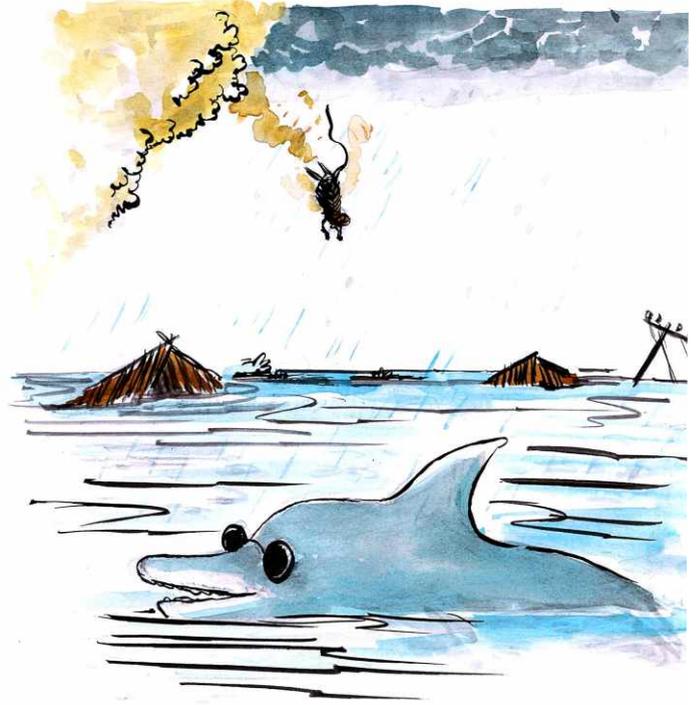
A strange sound is heard again and the Jerboa quickly jumps away



Raffa wonders why, when suddenly a huge dusty cloud of sand catches him



He floats for hours and can
barely breathe



Suddenly released from the great sandy
cloud, he falls to the water again

He crashes on the back of a Blind Dolphin.



What is that?

KLUNK!

I'm Raffa, don't you see?

No, I can not see, I am blind

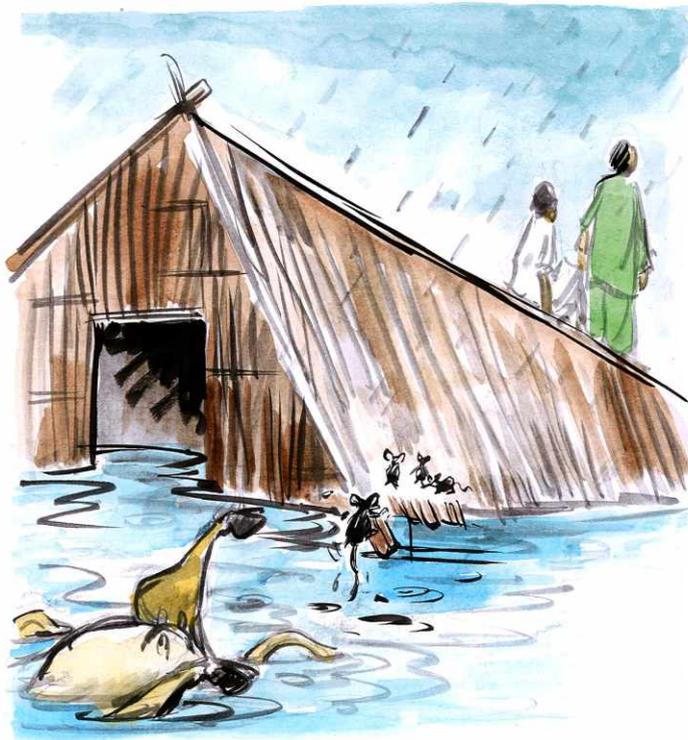
but I can teach
you how to swim



Now Raffa can swim!



As he swims, he can only see flooded
broken roofs scattered around.



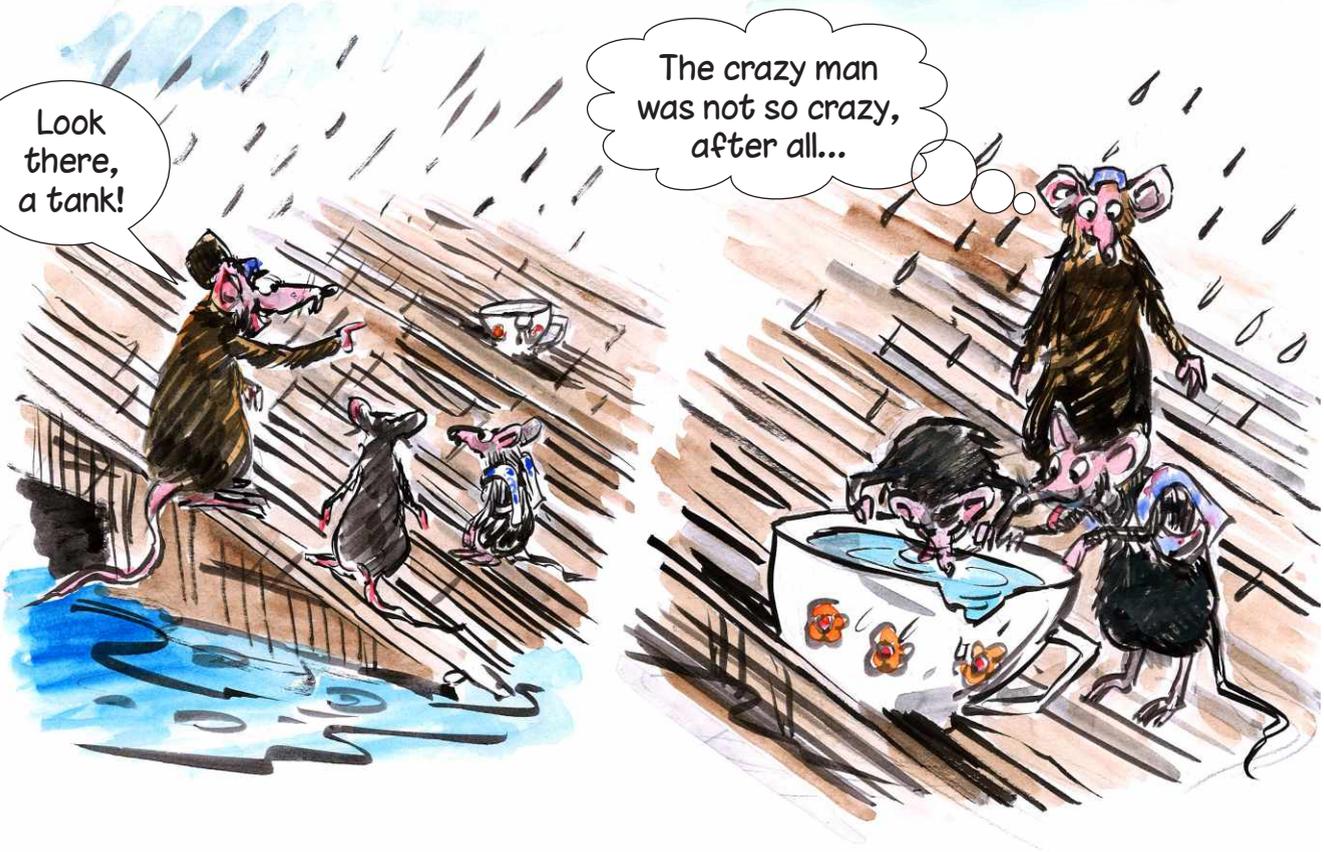
Raffa spots one where some affected rats are barely safe

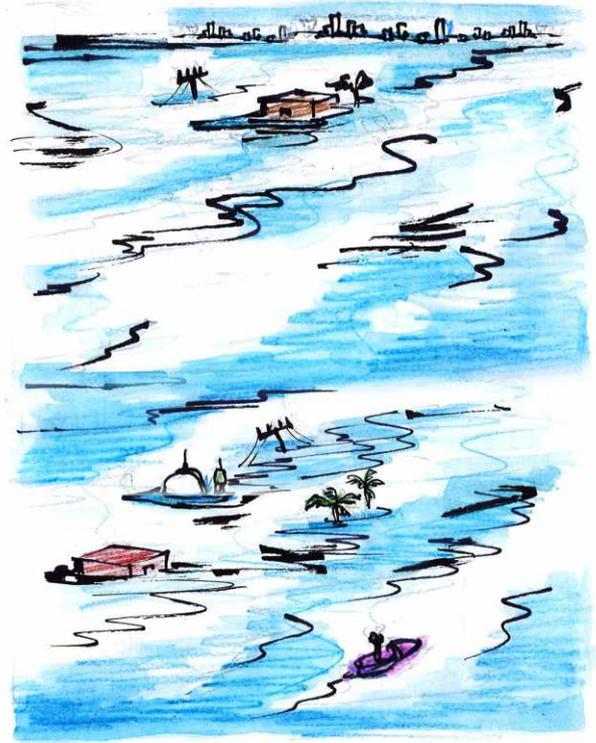


They look very sick

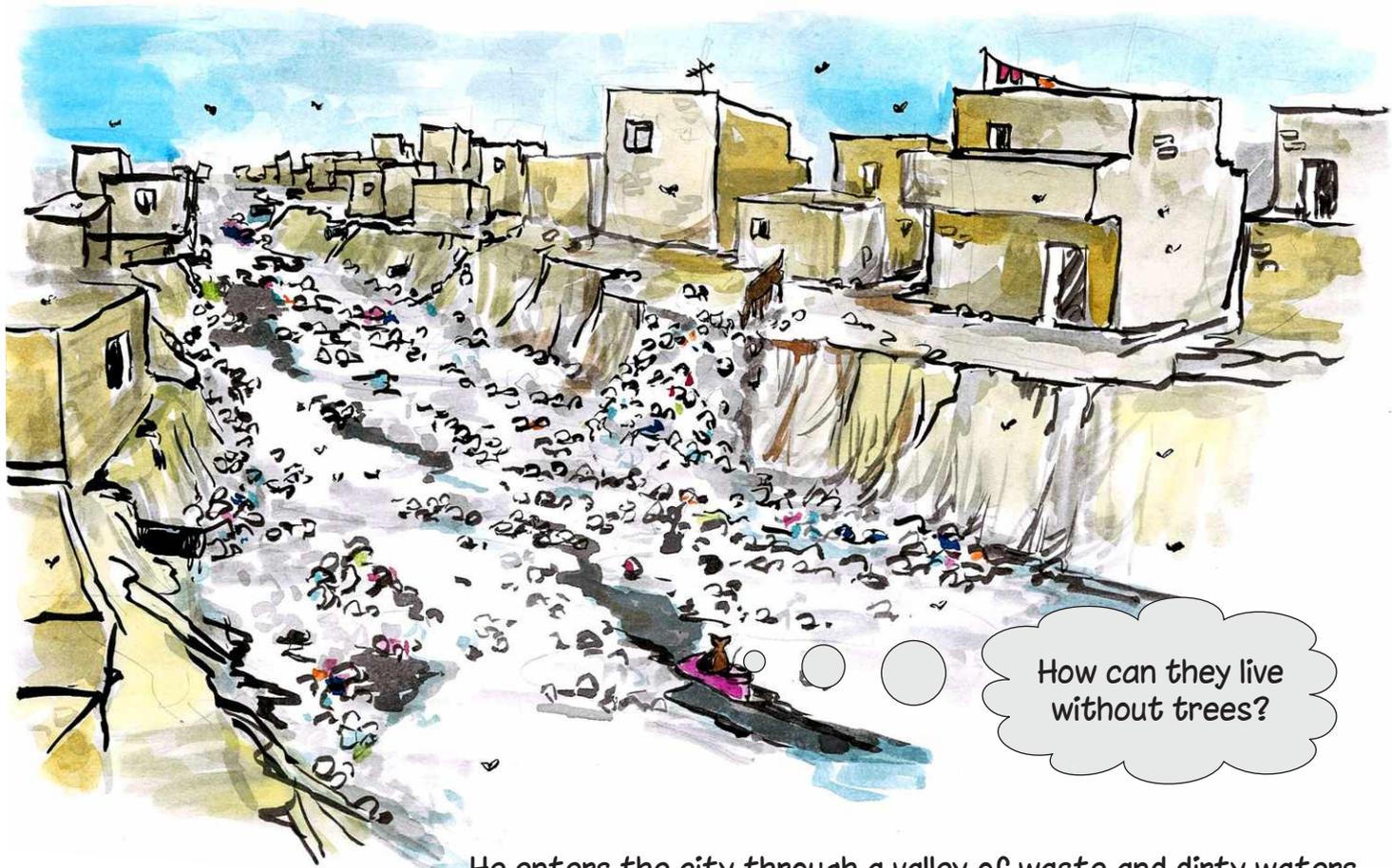
Look there, a tank!

The crazy man was not so crazy, after all...



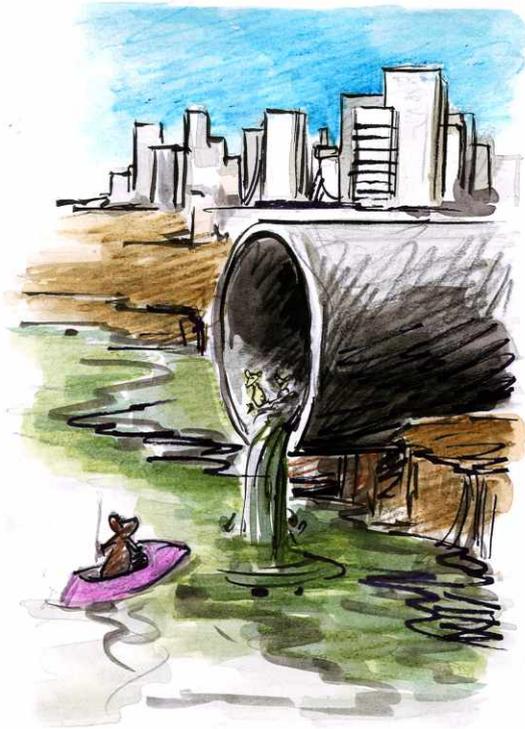


Raffa goes on and finds himself in the middle of a huge mass of water slowly running down. The skyline of a city can be seen in the horizon



How can they live without trees?

He enters the city through a valley of waste and dirty waters where no green can be seen at all,



Hey friend,
get up
here!



On his way, some rats spot him from a huge
sewage pipe and call out to him

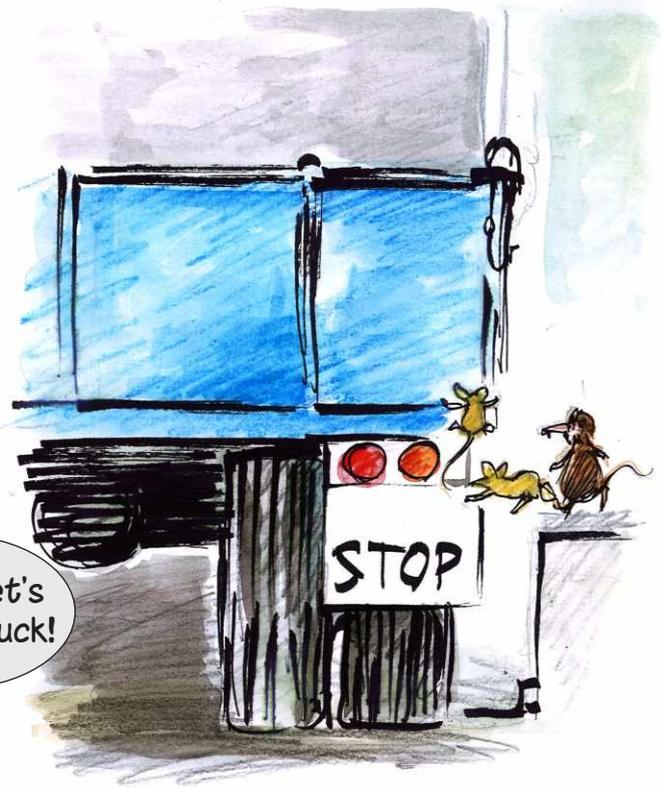




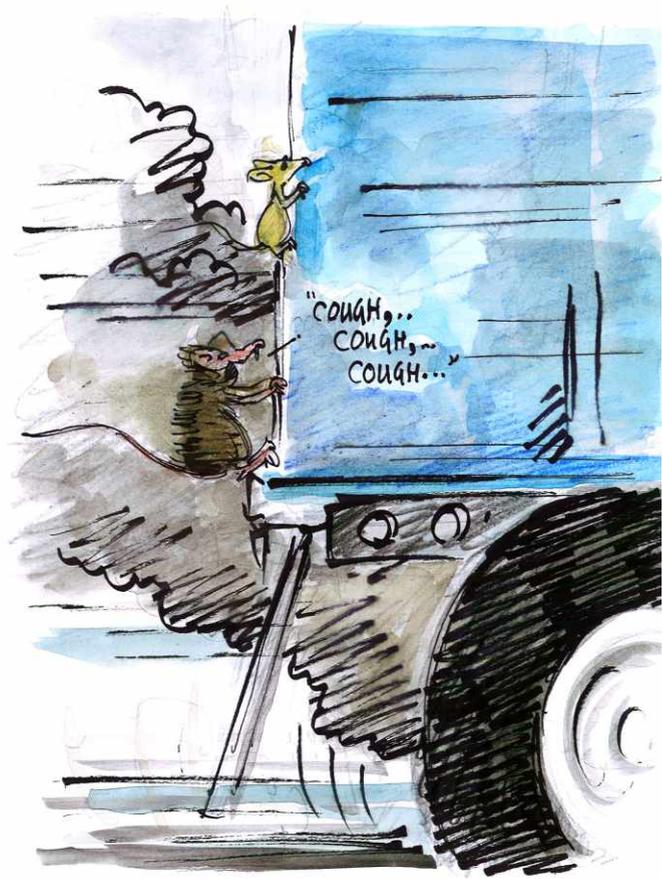
The roads are full of speeding cars and Raffa tries to keep up with his friends,



when he is nearly run over by a motorcycle



Raffa follows his new friends happily,
and jumps into the truck with them...



...until a dark smoke coming out of the truck nearly suffocates him.



Ouch, that was worse than the tornado!

COUGH..
COUGH..
COUGH...



Why don't we take those? They look cleaner and much better.

They all jump on to a bicycle...



Riding on the bicycle, Raffa had a great vision: All of them riding bicycles in a very, very green city,



Soon they arrive somewhere with plenty of nice shirts.



So Raffa chooses the biggest shirt that he can find...

WOW! He's hairy like a bear!



Raffa gets a shave, because he wants to dress properly...



Now Raffa is comfortable in a nice "kurta"*.



Now a vegetarian, Raffa reaches out for the fruits hanging from a tree.



Raffa can not figure out what the hard substance inside the fruit is..



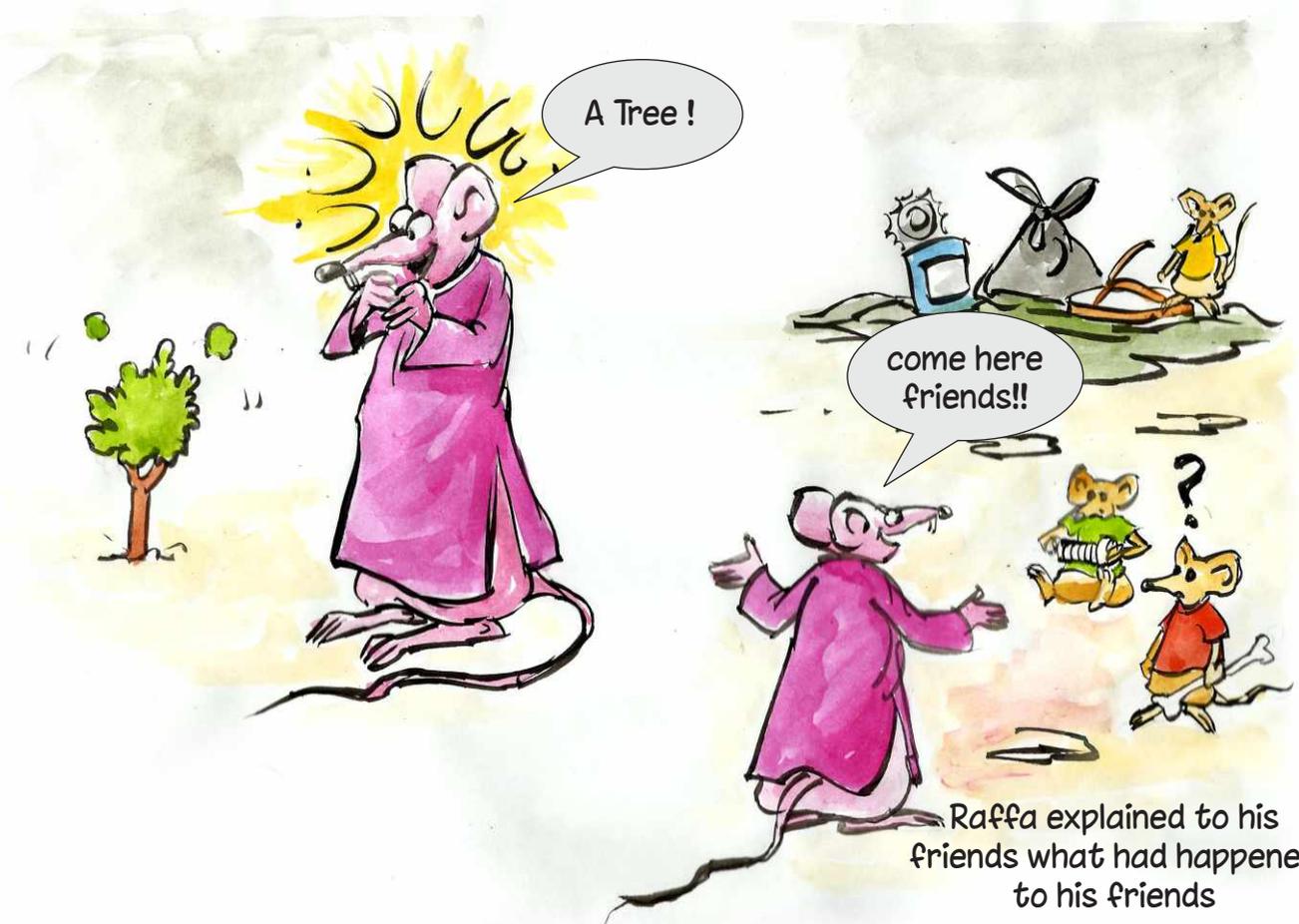
he throws it into a hole in the ground and covers it like he would with garbage



As he walks away,



something spectacular
happens



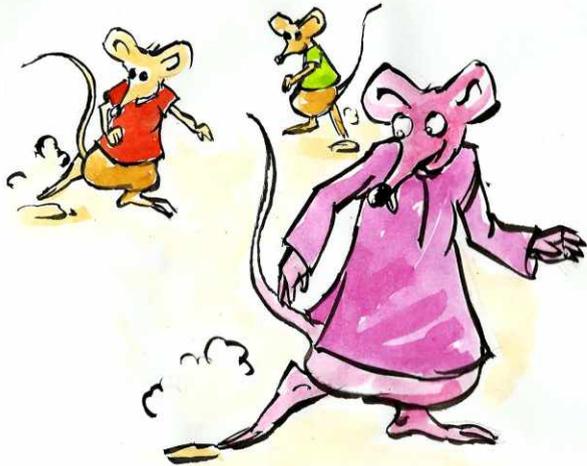
A Tree!

come here friends!!

Raffa explained to his friends what had happened to his friends



and tells them to follow suit



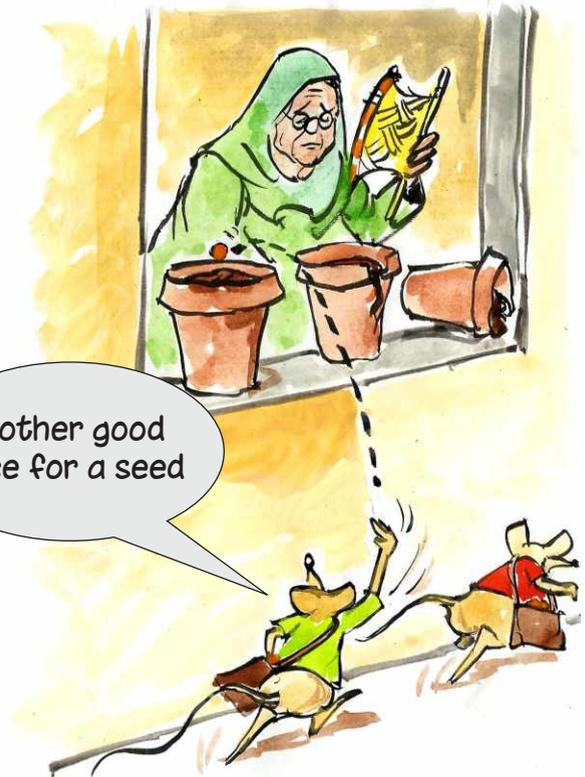
and suddenly trees begin to grow everywhere...





Newly inspired, they filled their bags with the wonderful seeds. Excitedly, they go around the city filling every hole they find with the magical seeds





another good place for a seed





The news of their remarkable discovery spread around the city,
and soon everyplace became surrounded with green

TO BE CONTINUED...

After being taken away from his home, Raffa faces many problems in the mountains because of earthquakes, landslides and floods. He faces thirst, hunger and fatigue in this unexpected journey that takes him all along the river Indus up to the sewages of Karachi, where a whole new life begins. Challenged by this unknown mega-city, Raffa uses his newly learned methods of adaptation and turns it into the tools of a re-born 'city-changer'.

