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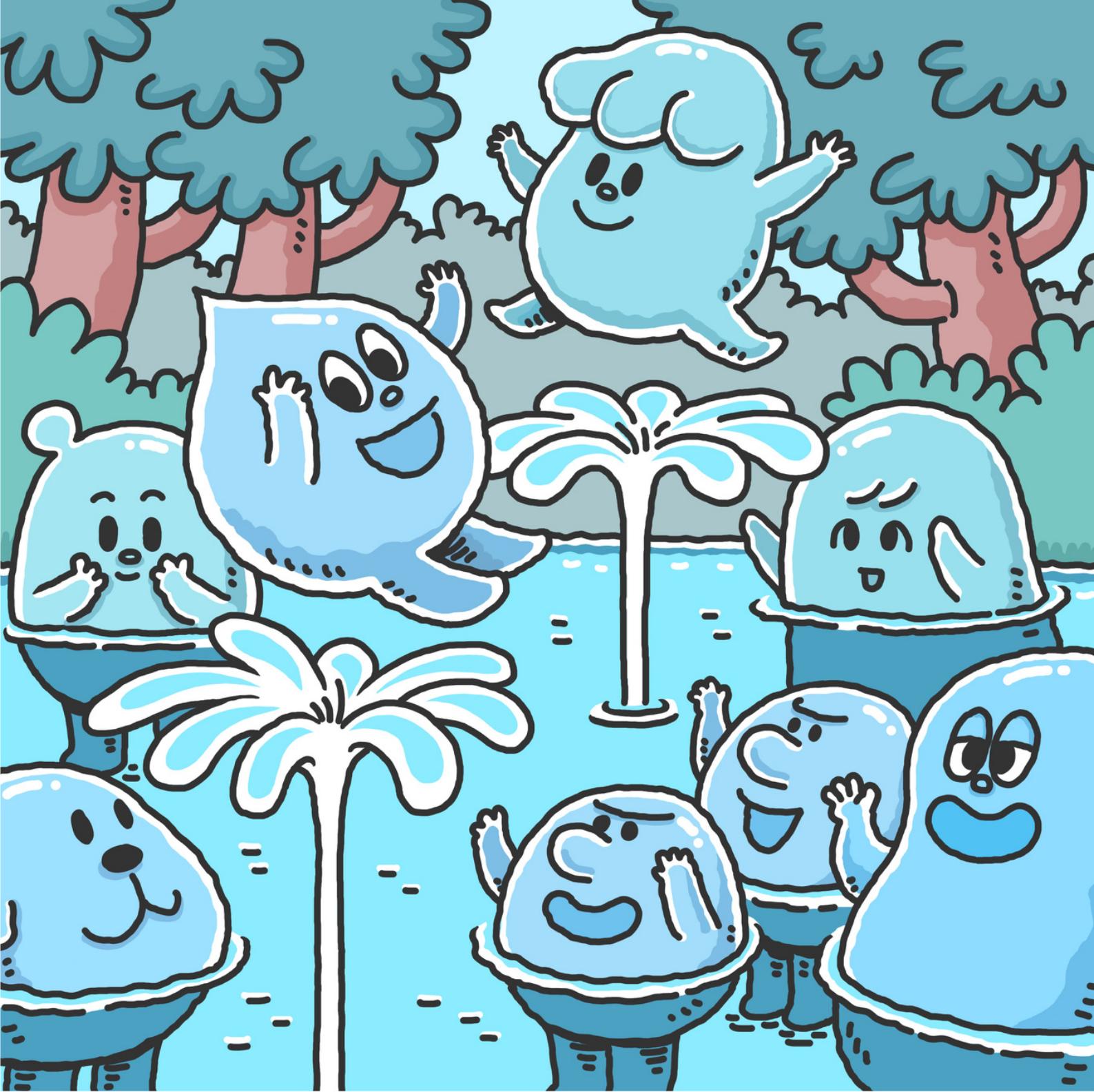


Special Rapporteur on
the human rights to
water and sanitation
Léo Heller

Journey of the Droplets

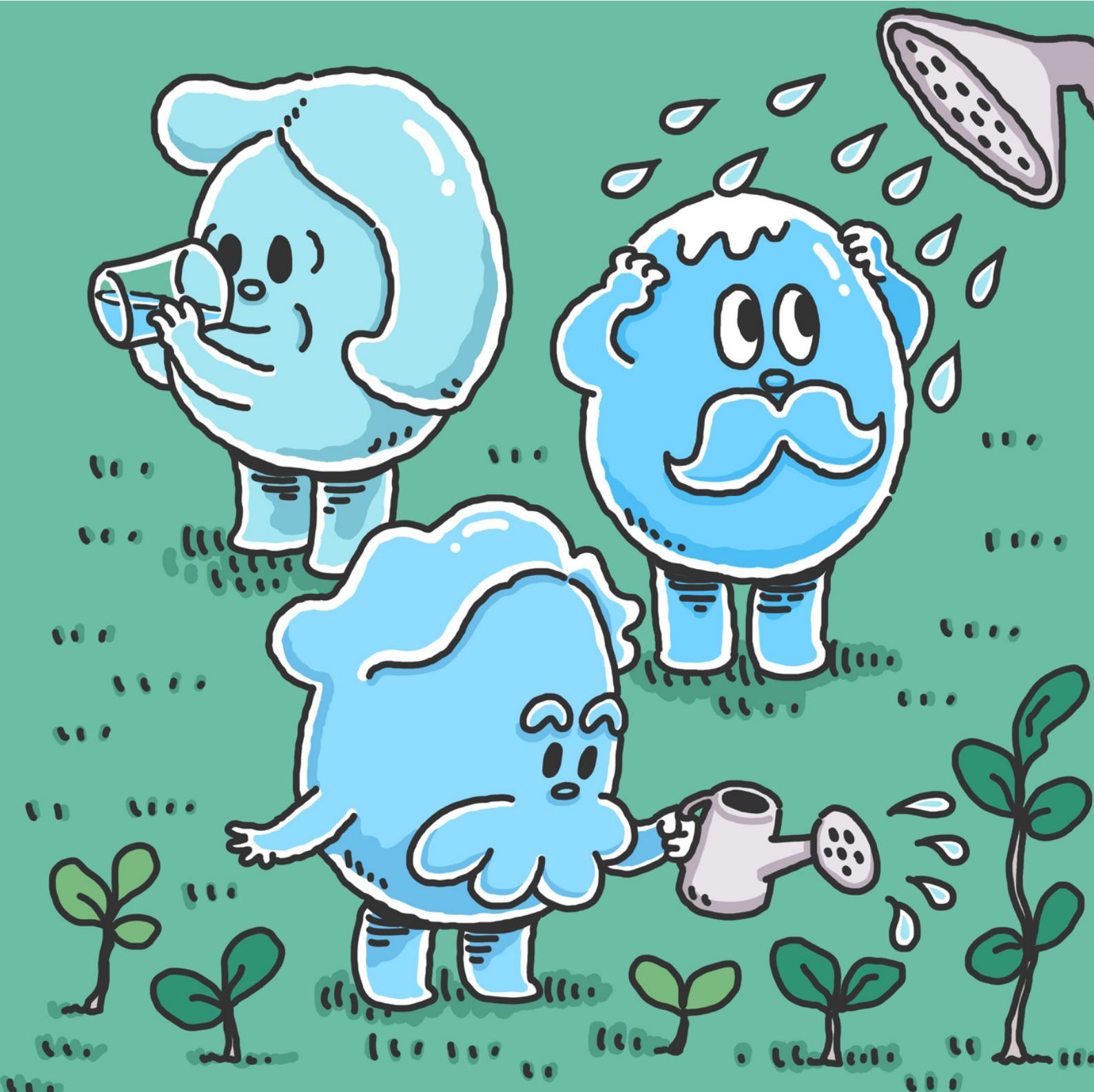
THE HUMAN RIGHT TO WATER





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

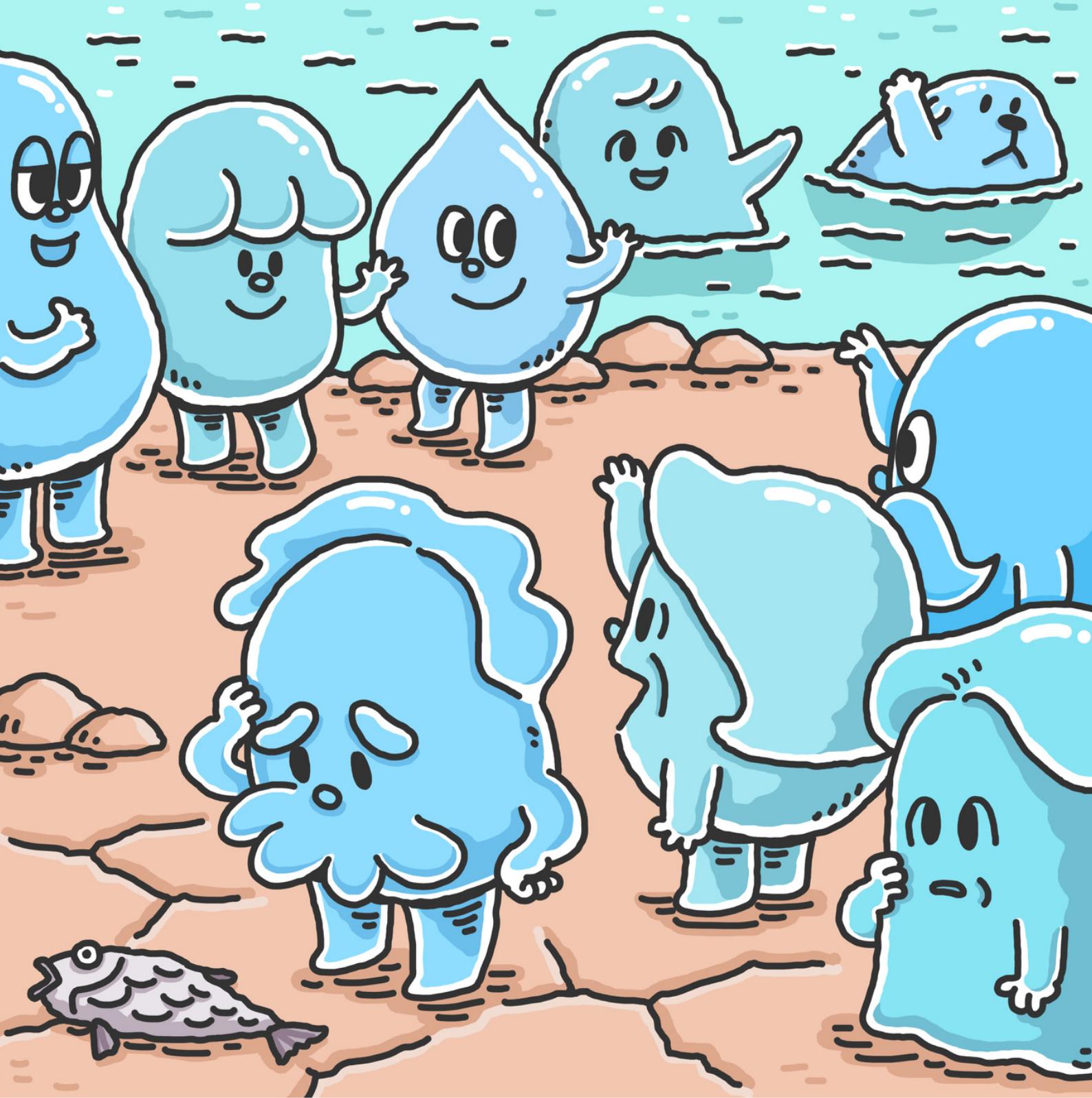
The Droplets have fun, but they are also very
busy learning how to help humans.



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.

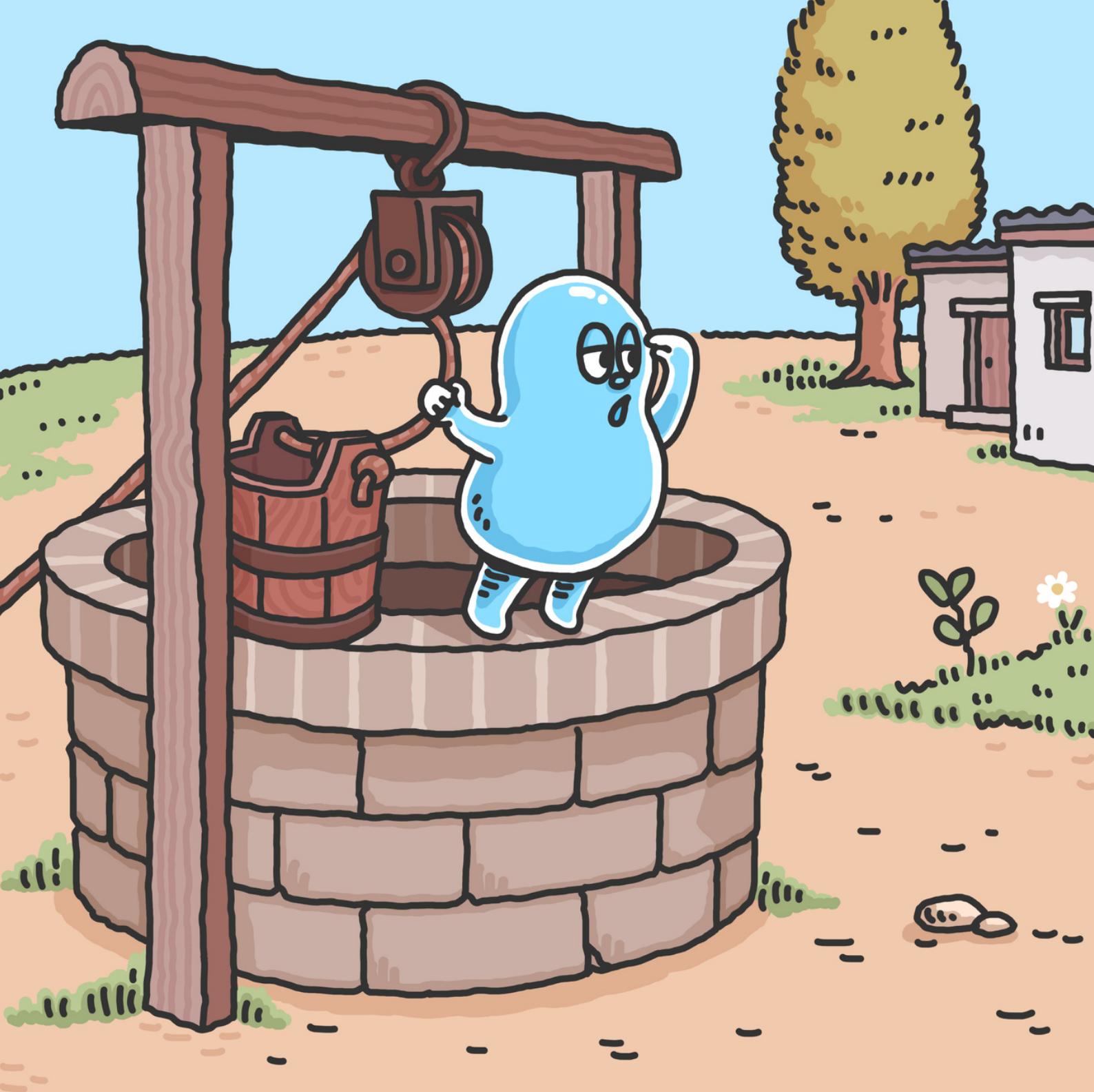
"There are snakes and spiders on the ground!", screams Droplet Songsong.

"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.

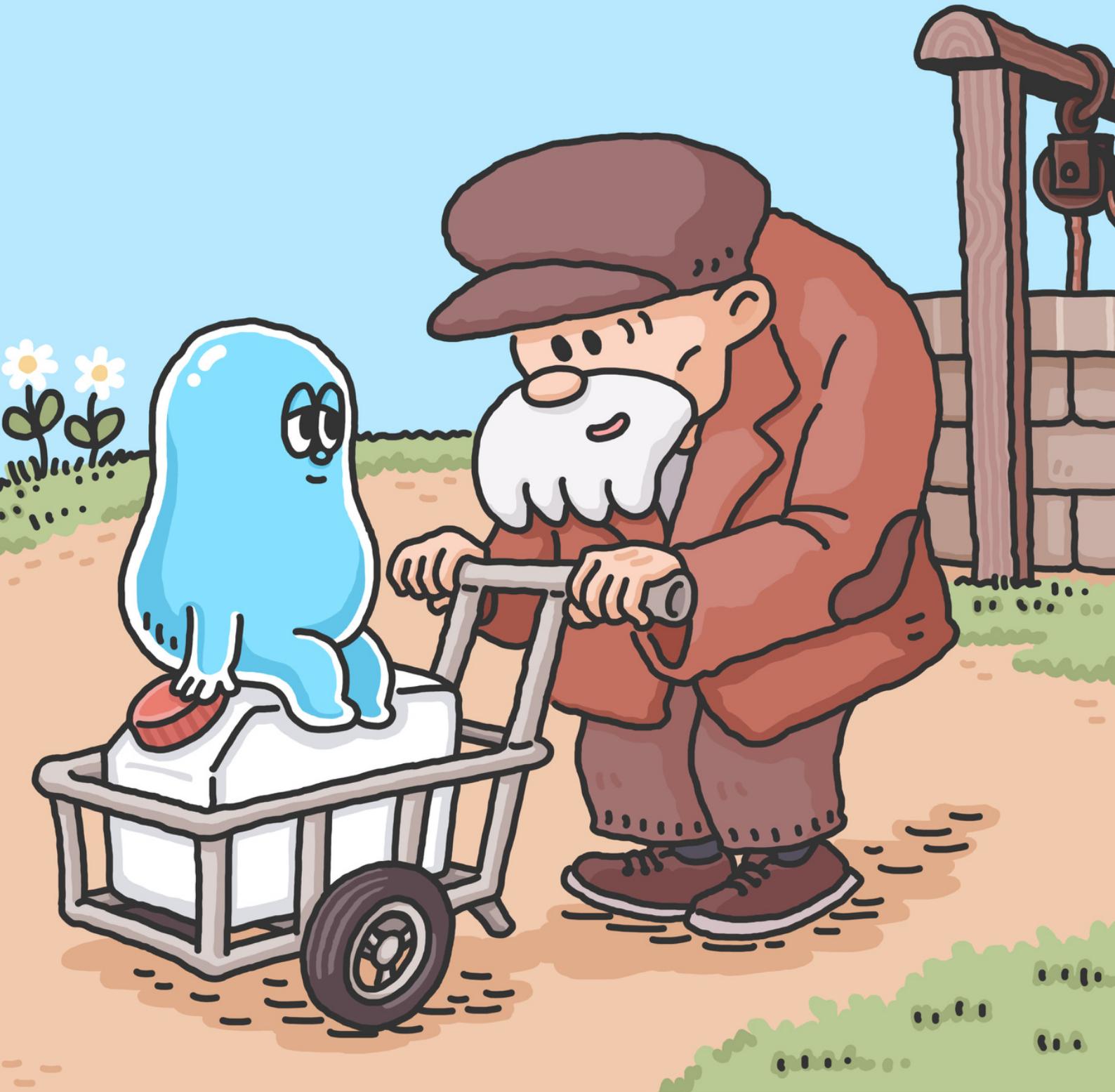
There is a bucket to bring Droplet Mini up to the ground.



Droplet Mini climbs up and looks around.

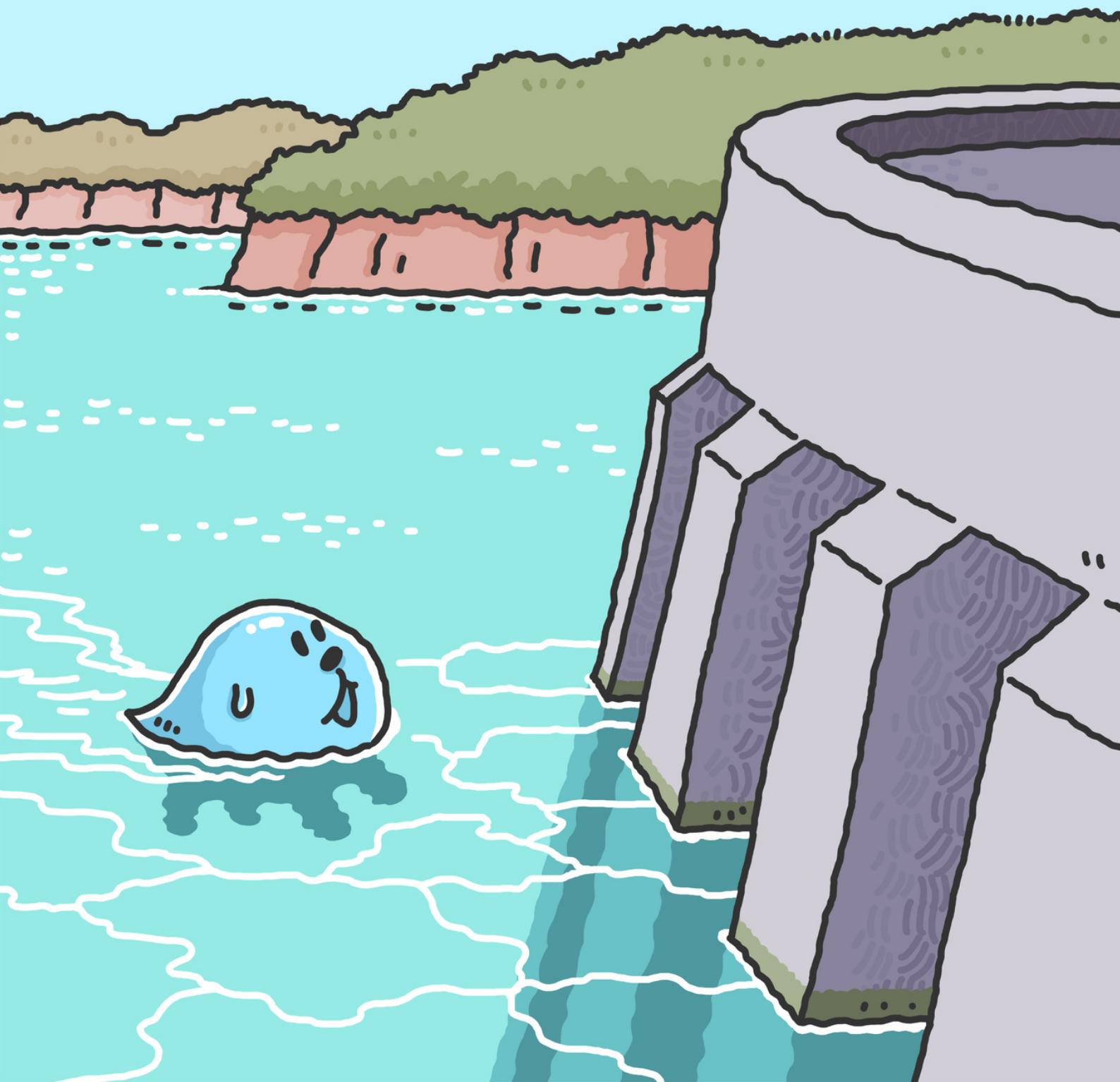
"Where am I? Ah-ha! I am at a village."

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.

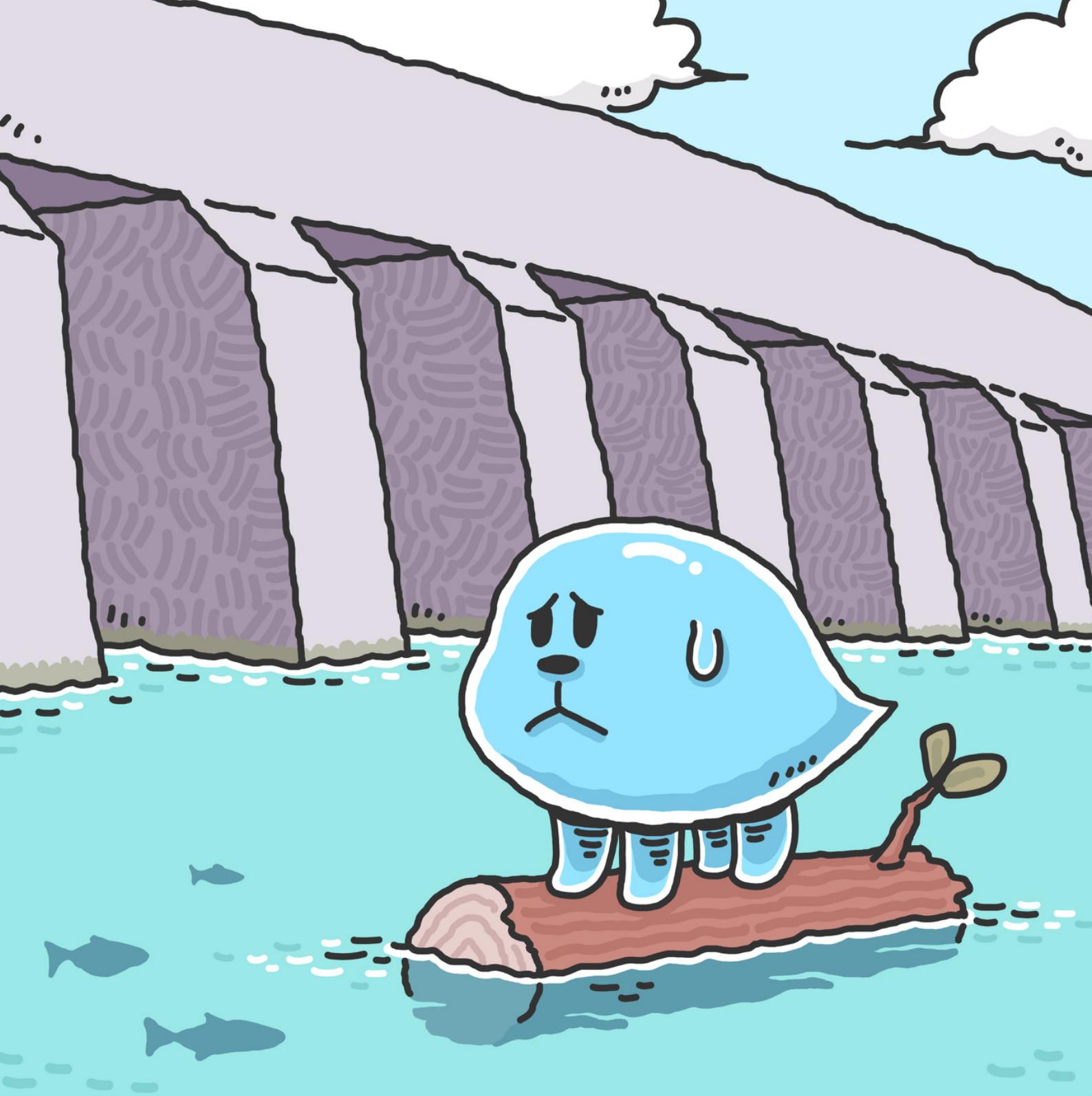
Droplet Midoogi thinks:
"When will I meet my human and finish this journey?"



Droplet Midoogi can see humans nearby.

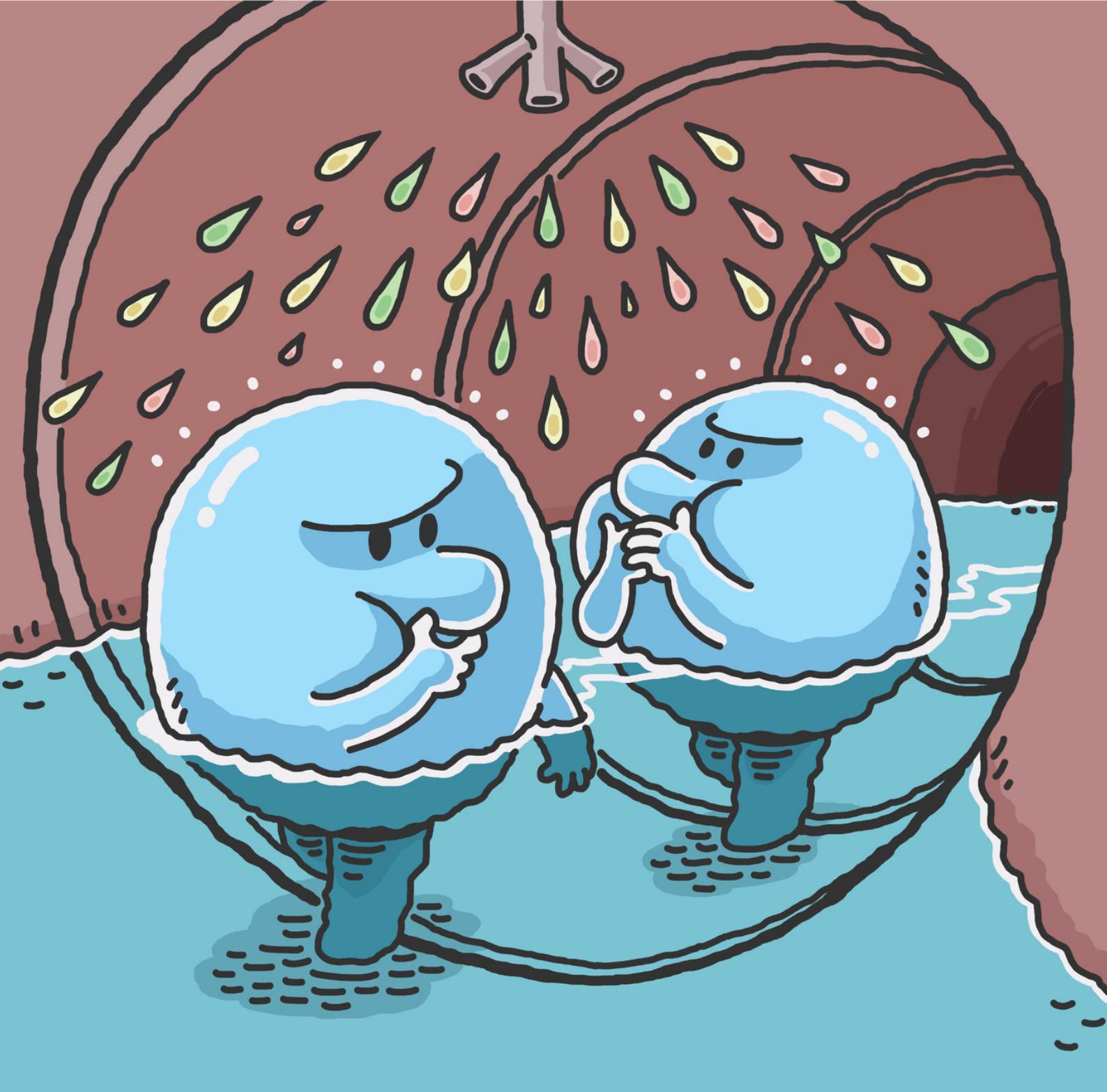
Excited, Droplet Midoogi screams: "Hello humans, you look thirsty. I can help!"

But the humans cannot hear Droplet Midoogi.



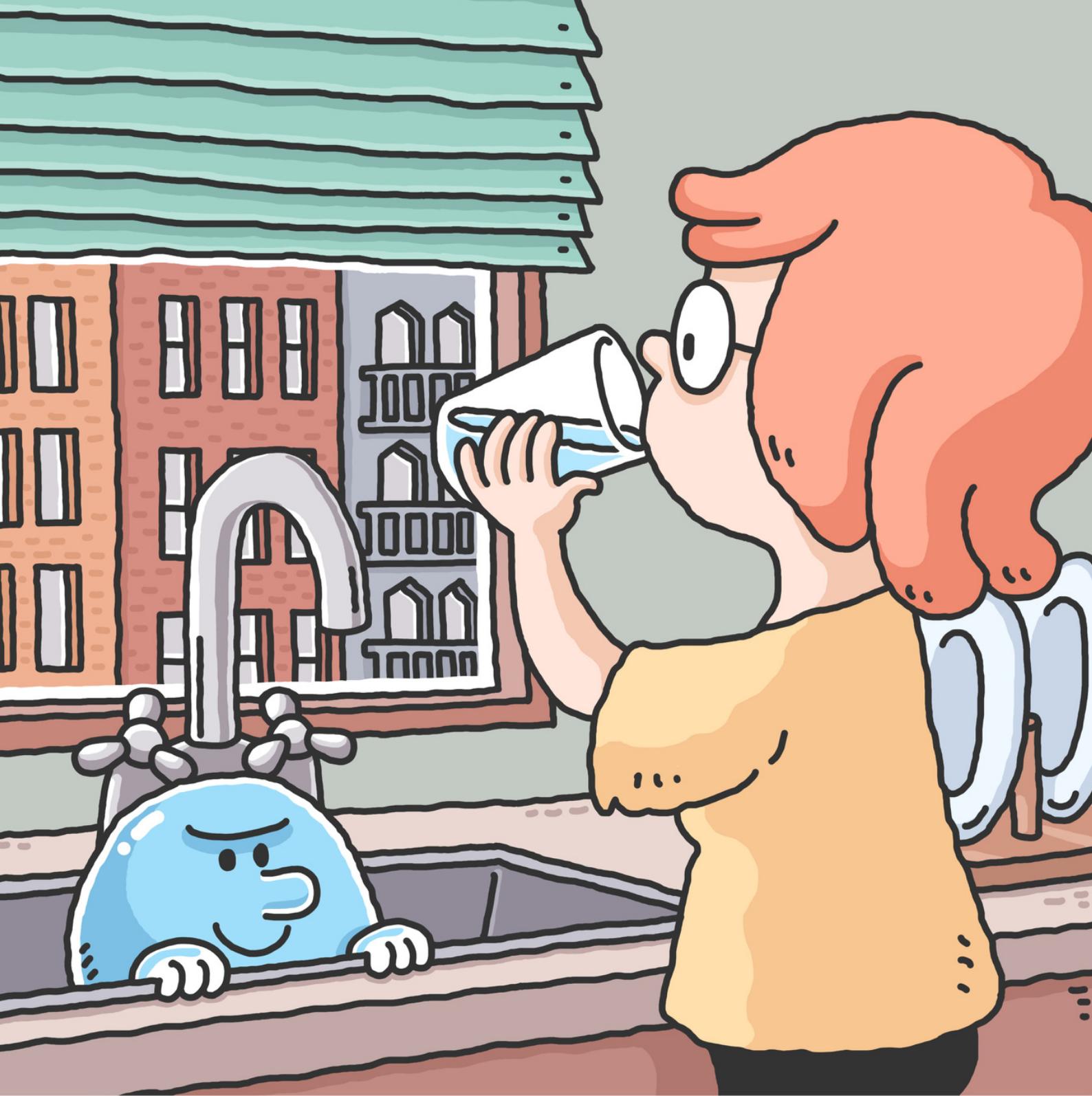
Stuck in the dam, Droplet Midoogi is bored.

"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 Twinny says:

"That was an easy travel! I wonder if others had an easy travel like this."

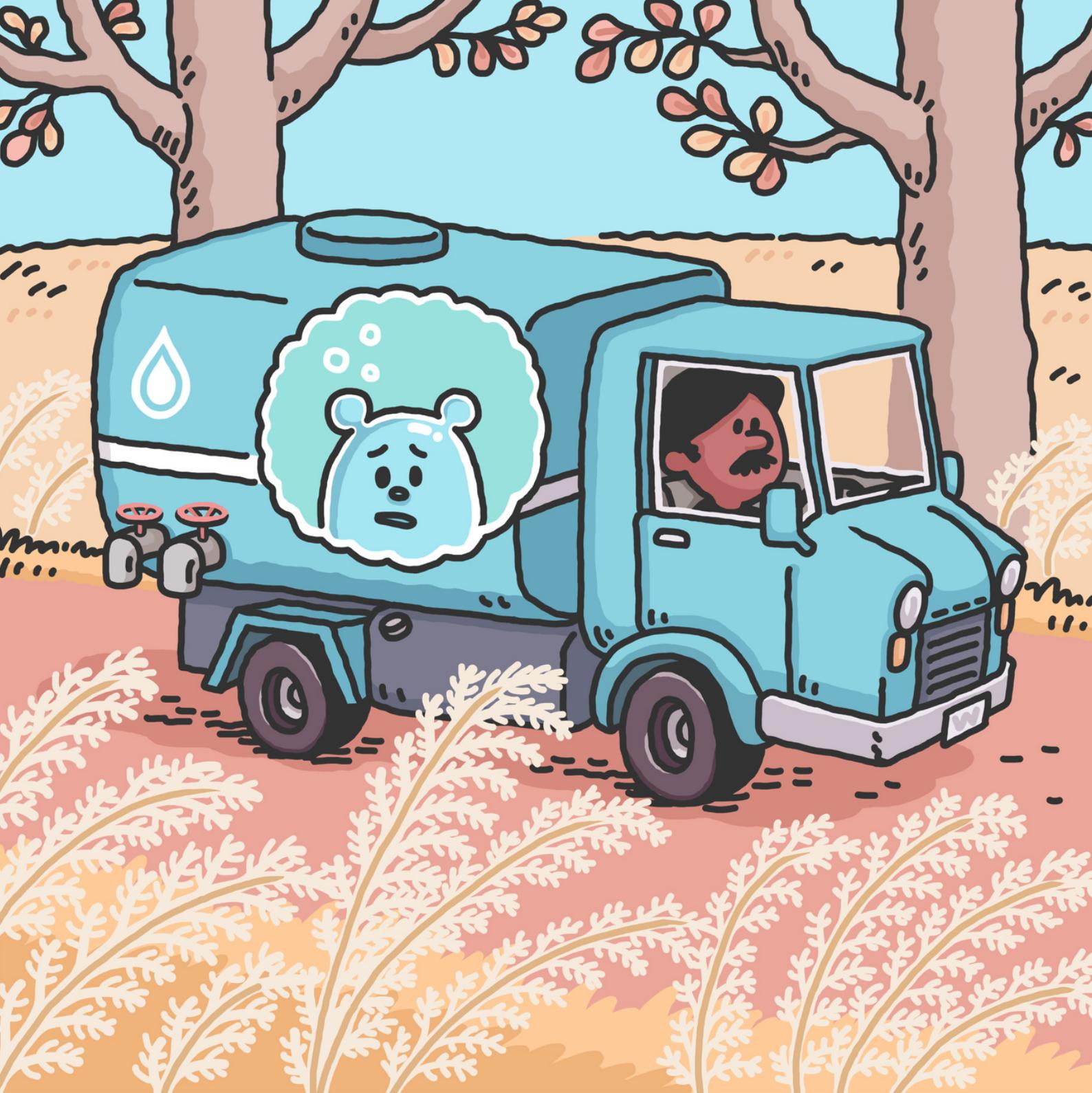


Older Twinny is happy that he finished his journey.

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

Younger Twinny 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.

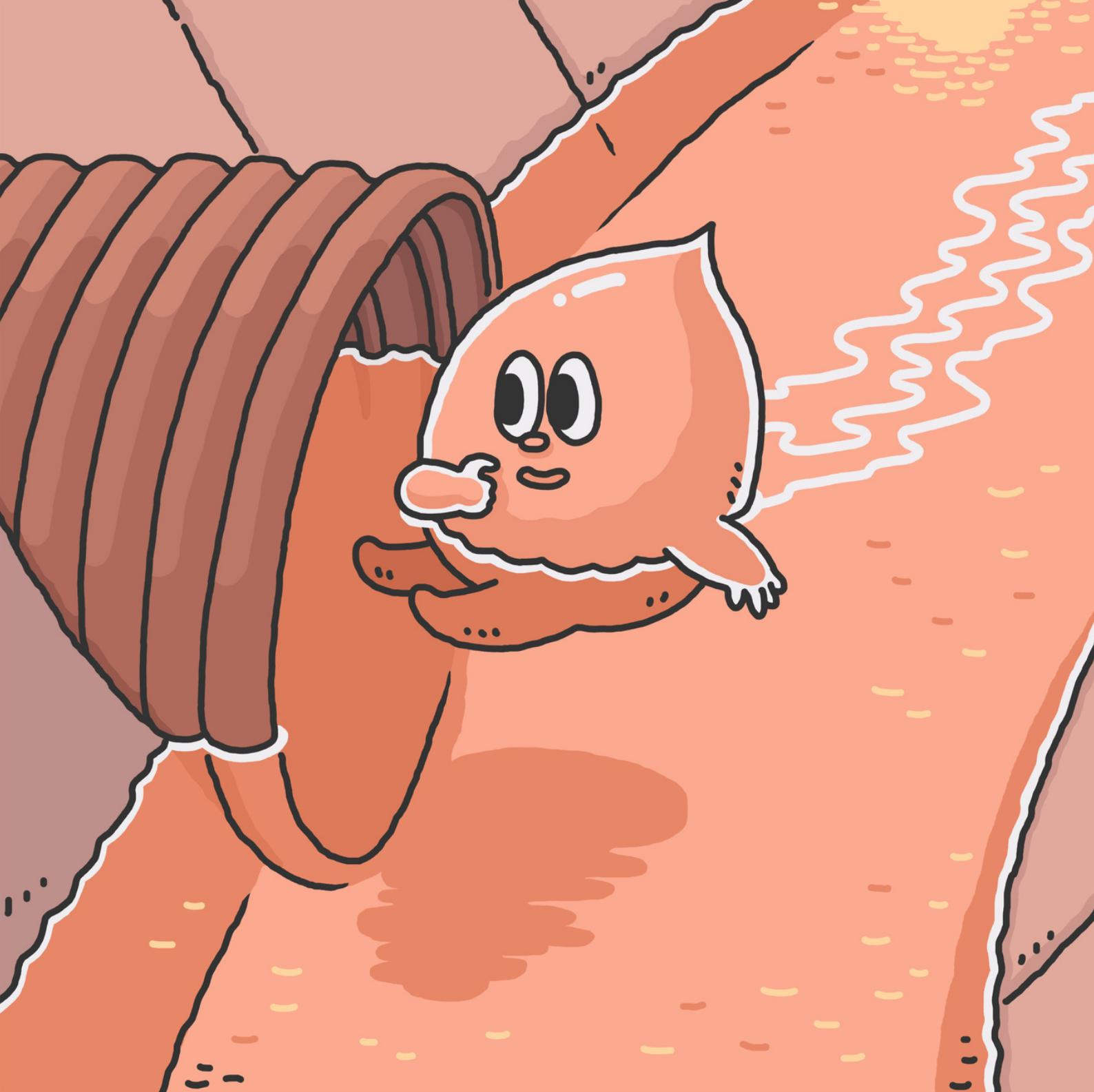
Behind the humans, she sees so many tiny houses. "Wow, so many people live here. I guess this is what the humans call a 'slum'."



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

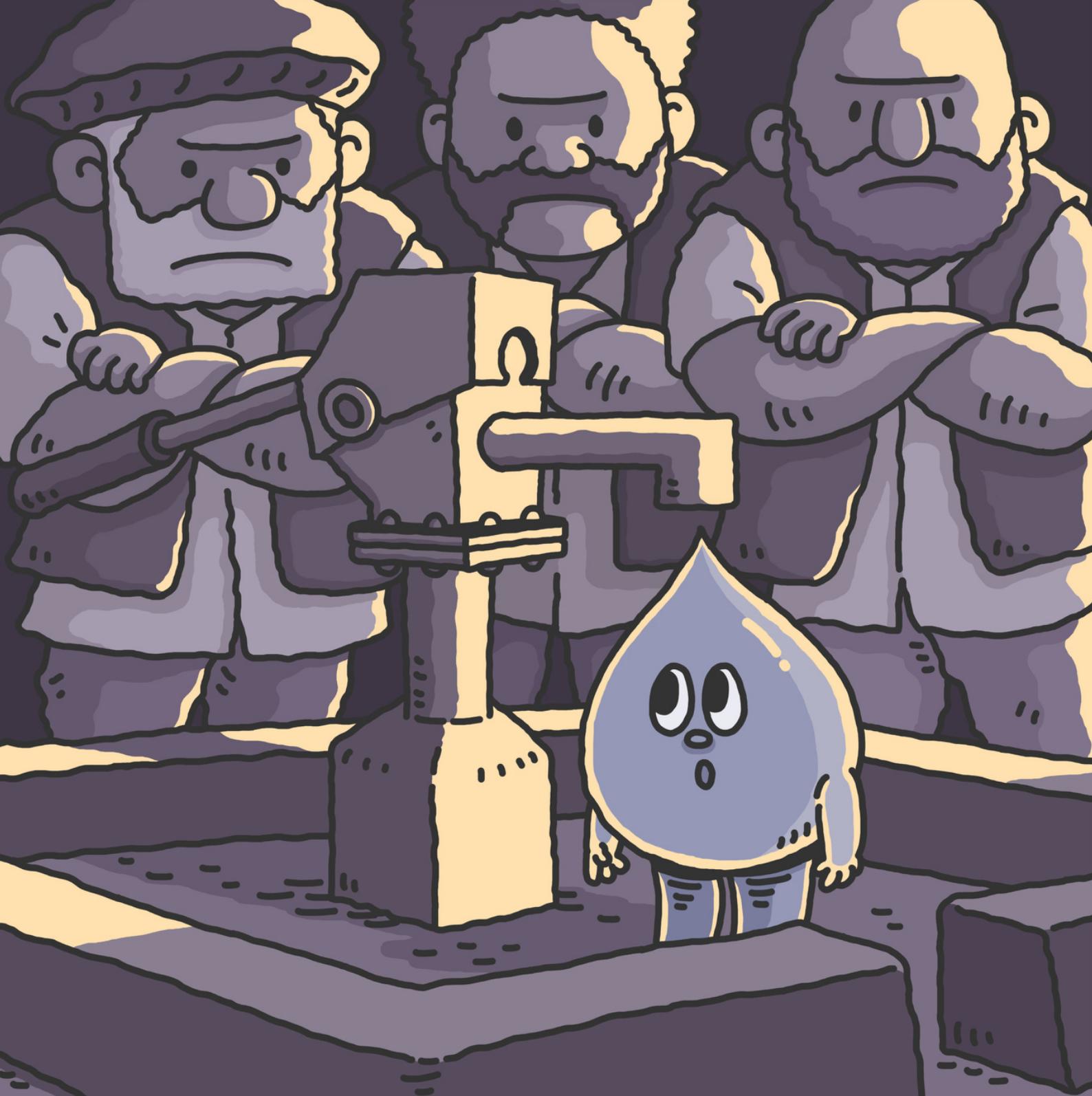
Droplet Doldal wonders:

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

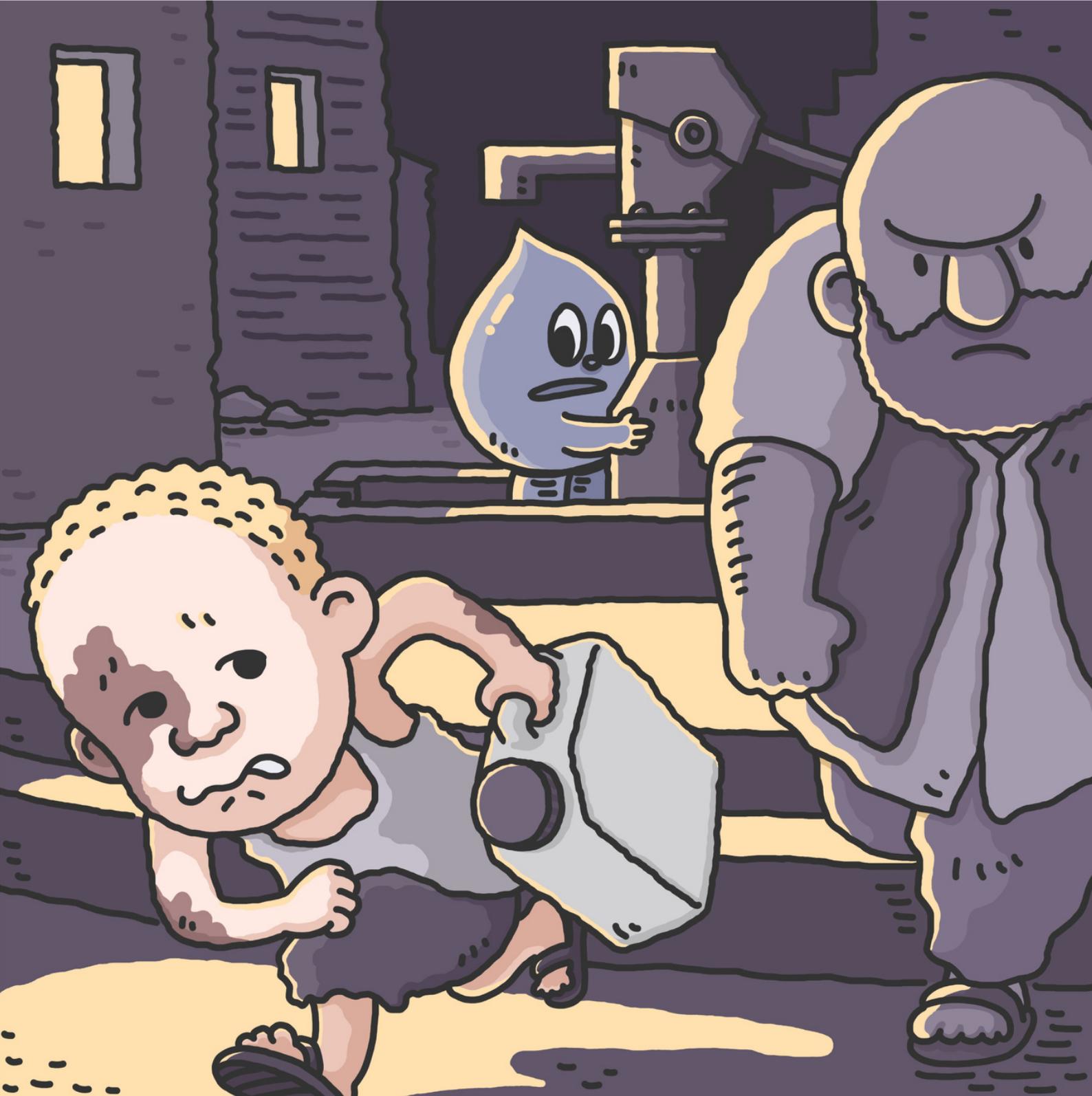


Her friend *Droplet Caramel* also travels far, first in the canals and then taking rubber pipes.

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

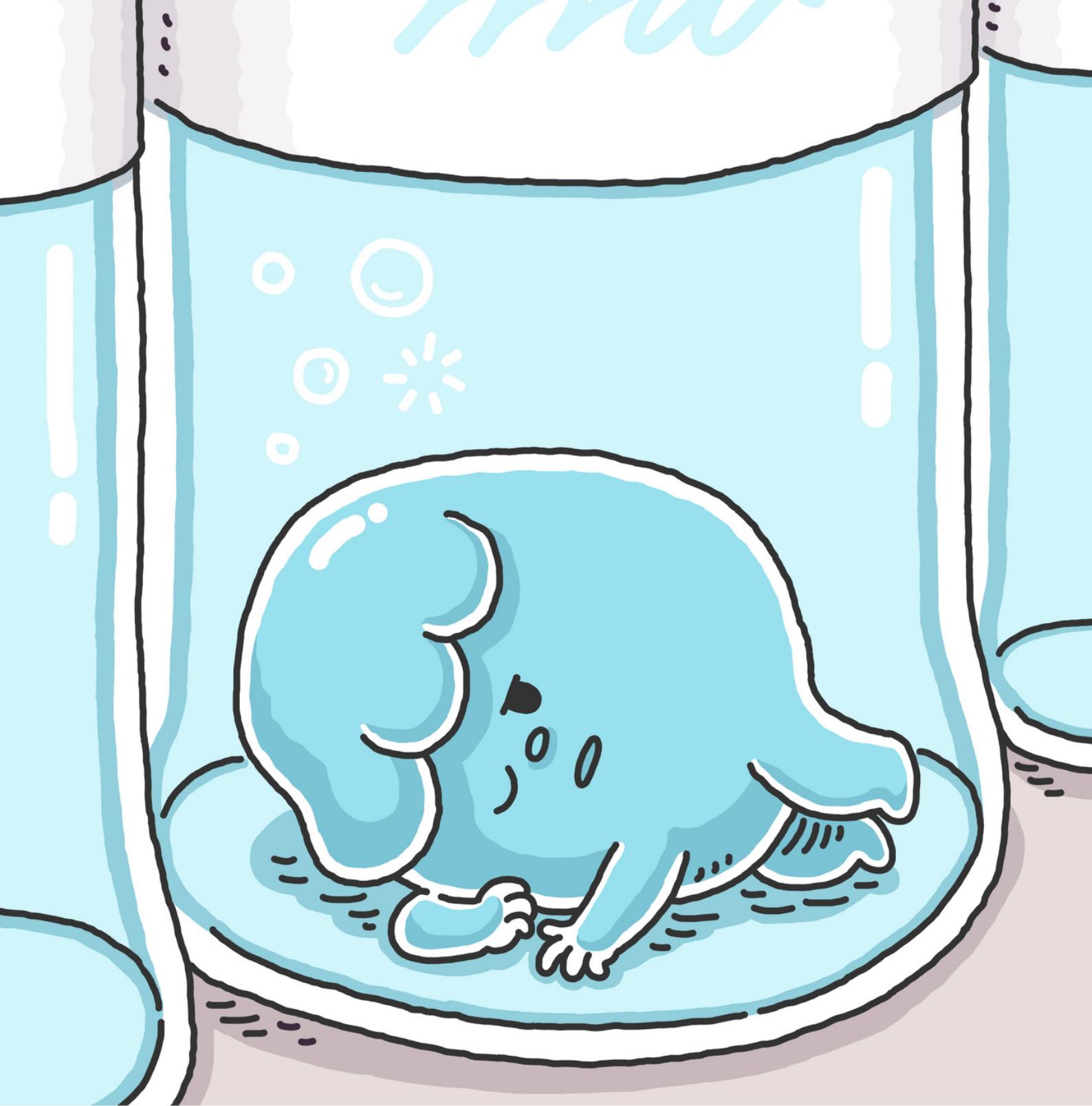


There are a group of large men surrounding the water pump: "Great! There are many people! But they look scary..."



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.

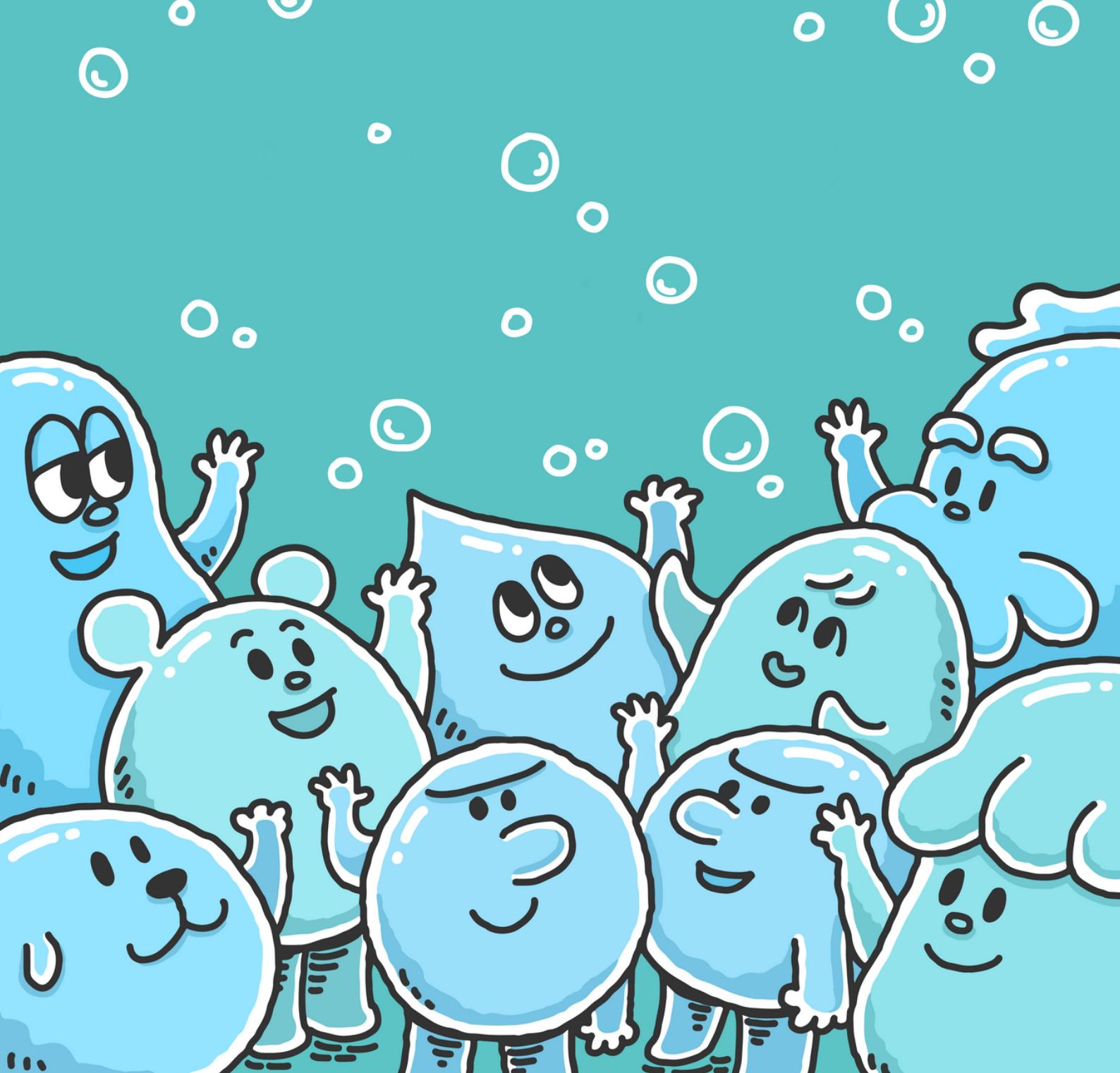
The boy looks at Droplet Midge and then looks at the bread next to the bottle.

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”.



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