



The pine trees on the backyard of my house are screaming in silence.
They stand still on a forgotten hill, inhabited by beautiful beasts and
Kesot ghost.



I am sometimes aware of their presence, these beautiful beasts not the Kesot, I will tell you about her later.



One of the beast is a small midget-like, with big grey eyes and funny cheeks. And the other has big bones and tall, his face resembles resembles my faraway uncle, who is now resting below the ground, rotting slowly by the memory of his unlived life.



The big and tall beast used to watch over me when I was pooping on their land. Their dim, sunless, and mysterious landscape attracted me . The other children too.



Tepi was one of them, my half dark-faced friend. He and I used to lose ourselves in that forest. We were looking for a parallel universes between the high trees, the weird insects, and the horrid voices that came from the river.



We once saw a naked female there, she was peeing and quite unaware of our presence. Unlike the older boys, we didn't have an appetite for naked woman; our penises were far from overwhelmed. So we left her alone and continued our venture in finding this parallel universe inside the forest hill.



Tepi has always warned me about the Kesot. He said that she, this Kesot beast, is not the same as the beautiful beasts that have always looked after us.

Once he was chased by this creature, no ordinary eyes could see her, but Tepi was an exception. He's a Torajanese born with unusual physical condition. What I mean by half dark-faced when I speak of him is that half of his face is filled with fur, circling his eyes and down to his cheeks. The Torajanese believe that he is gifted by supernatural powers.

So When he was chased by this sullen ghost, he ran in circles until she grew tired and Tepi could manage his escape. He said that the only way to escape her is to run in a zig-zag fashion. Kesot were known for their inability to chase in a zig zag.



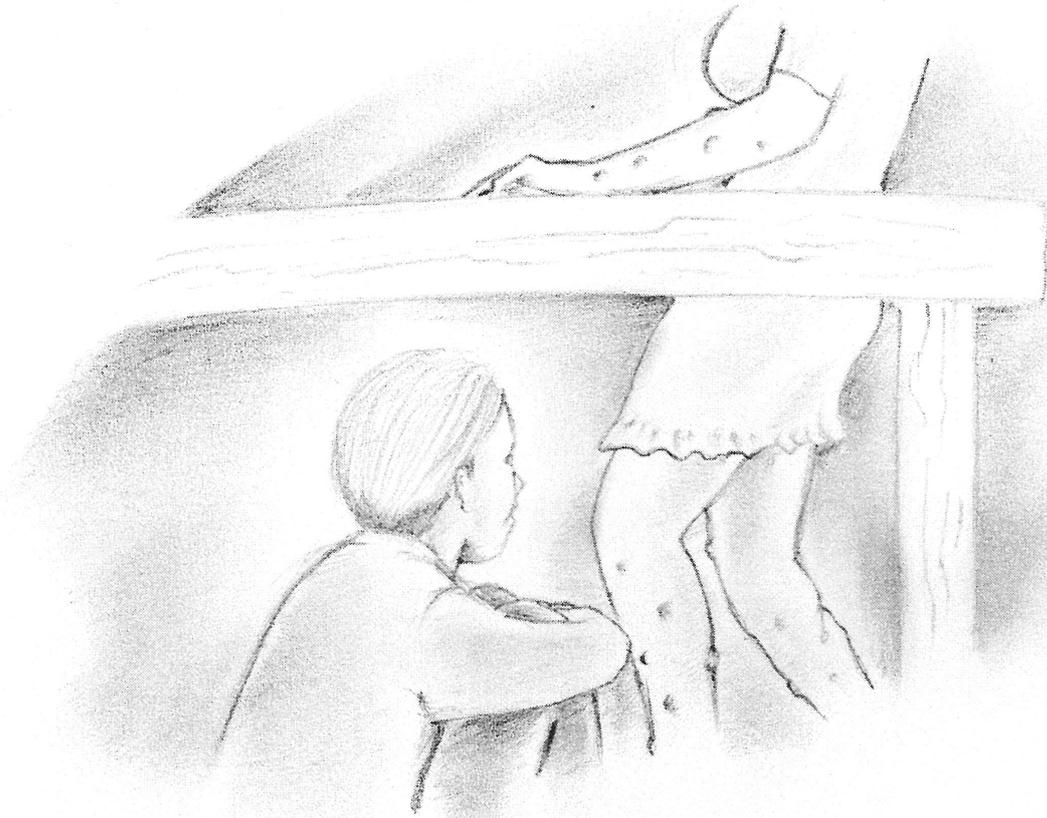
So the only thing to do was to avoid the white sand and always follow the Yeti's footsteps. Yeti was a name we gave to the big beautiful beasts.

It was almost dark and we had to return home. Those beautiful beasts had warned us that when the night comes there would be more horrifying and unfriendly beasts crowding the forest. So me and Tepi should leave soon.

And we hadn't yet found the parallel universe that we were looking during these two weeks.



I entered my house, it was dark and no one was around. I had not seen my brothers since morning and my mom was working late. I saw all the hanging flowers surrounding my house were moving. The wind slapped my face and I was overwhelmed with scary thoughts. After I washed my feet, I heard footsteps from the stairs but no one was around. I knew the house was empty.



My mom has always told me if I feel scared, I should sing gospel and pray to Jesus so the dark forces would not interfere with me anymore. But I always found it useless. I still felt terrified. So I grabbed some food from the dining table and hid below it. At that time, I saw she-man ghost covered with white satin. Her legs were so awful. She was walking, slowly, circling the dining table, she knew where I was hiding but she seemed to hesitant to show her face.



After a while everything went blank and I didn't remember anything afterward. I woke up and found myself on my mother's breast; I felt at peace, finally.

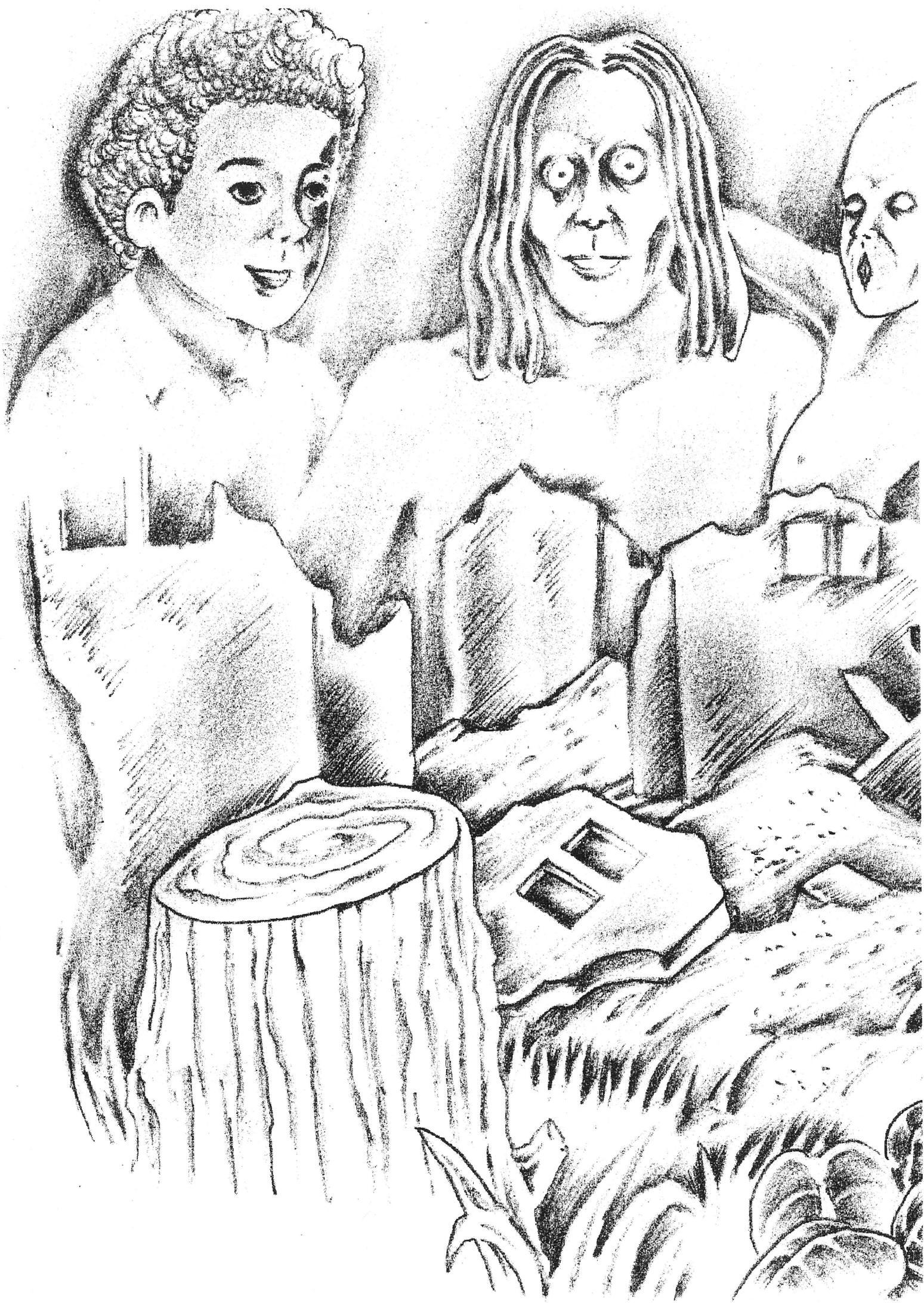
When I was awakened
again I didn't find myself
in the bed with my
mother. I was on the floor,
on a mattress below the
bed. With my eyes still
blurred, I saw two people
naked. It was my mother
and a handsome
mustached man. They
were pressing their bodies
together and it was a
horrible sight.

I ran outside the room and
screamed.

I heard some noises from my mother's room and at a glance I saw the mustached man had escaped through the window naked. To this day, everytime I think about him, I think of him as a man without clothes who jumped through the window of my house. I can never see him in my mind wearing any clothes. My mom tried to calm me down but I didn't feel like talking to her. I went upstairs and slept with my brothers.



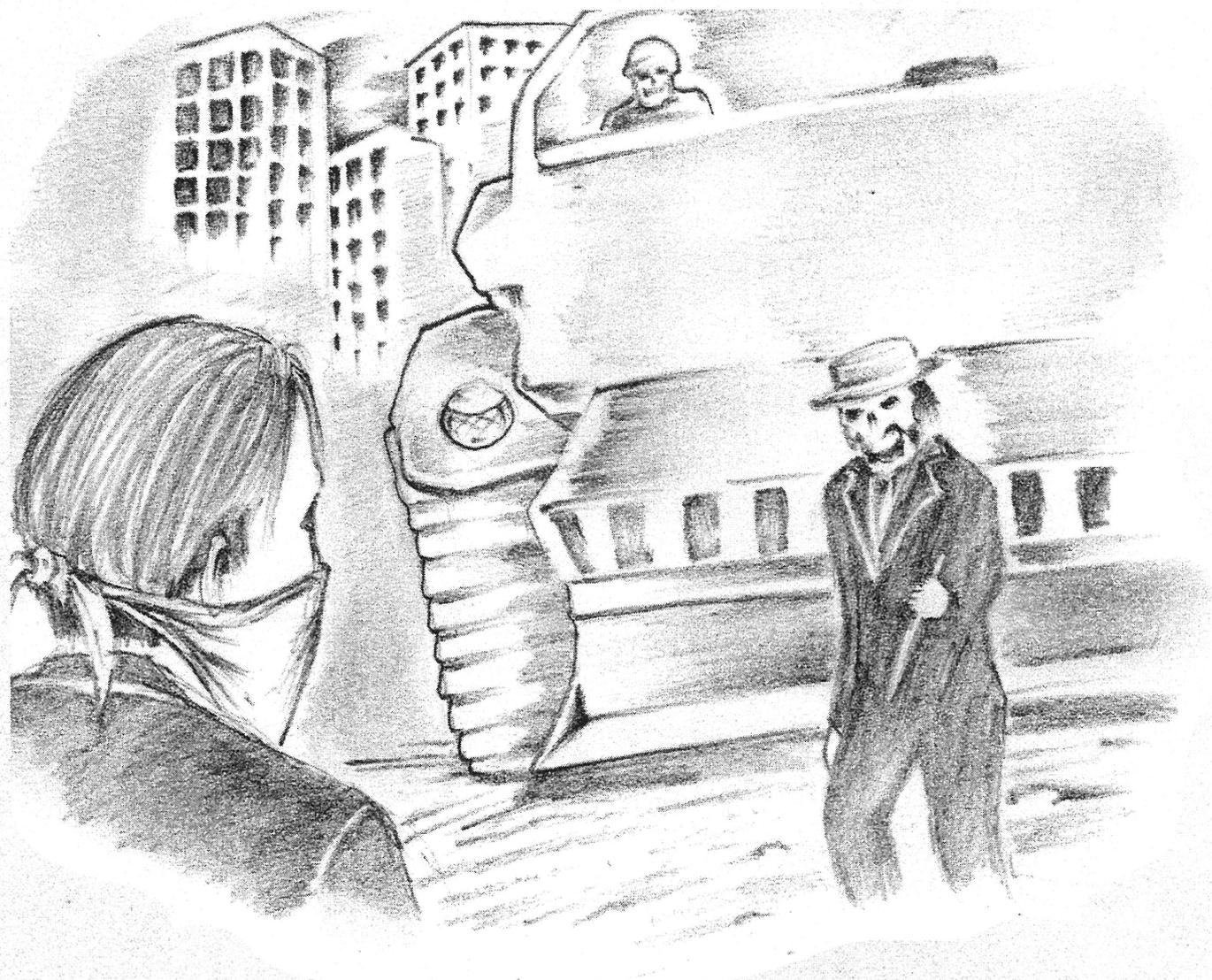
When I woke at nine in the morning, the house was empty again. As if all those things that happened last night was just a dream and no one really inhabited this house except me and the she-man ghost. But that day I could'nt go outside. The doors were all locked. I started to cry because I wanted to play. I wanted to meet Tepi and go to the forest again, in a neverending search for a parallel universe.



"The imaginary is what tends to become real."

André Breton



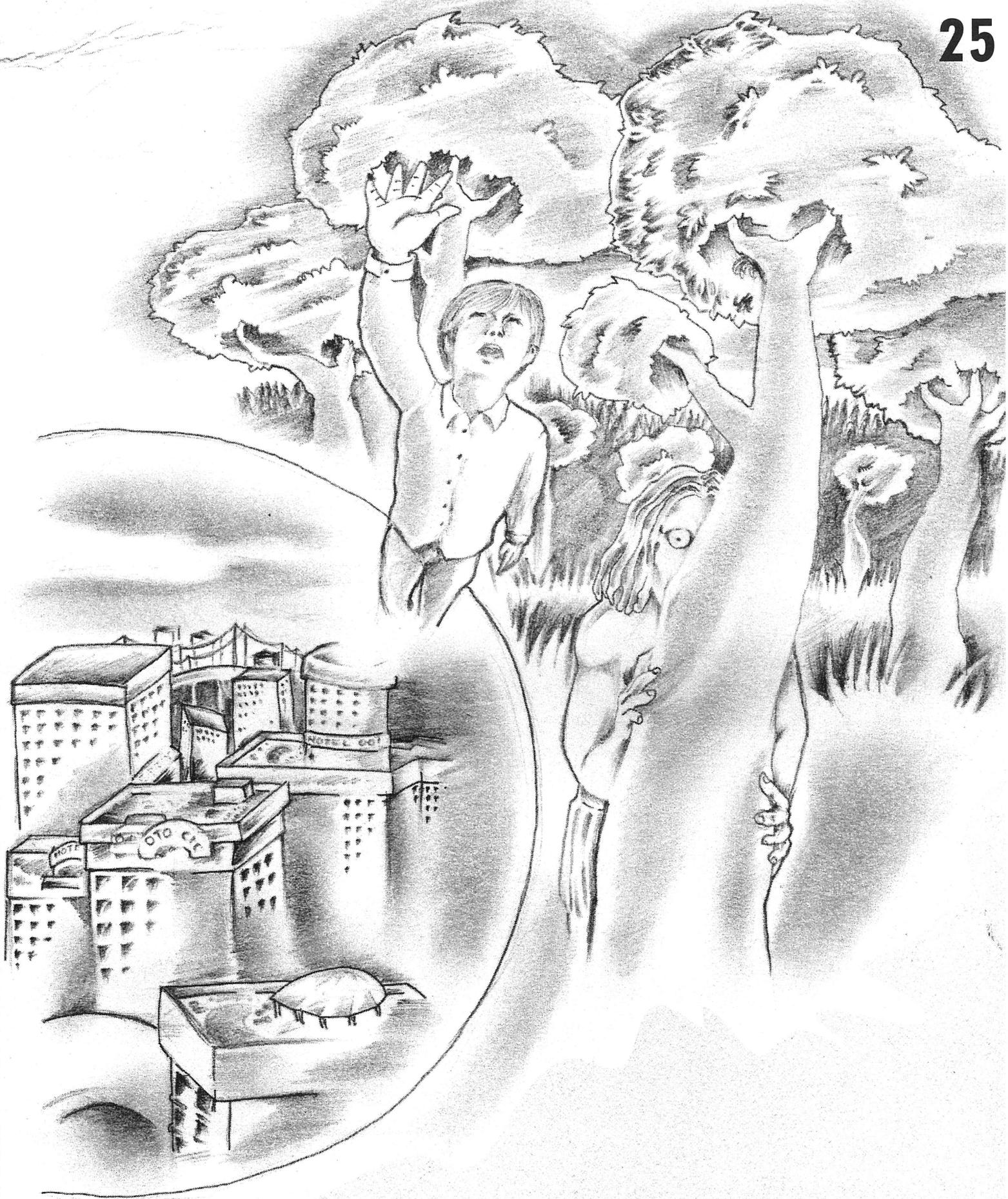


And now I find myself already twenty-eight years old. There are no more beautiful beasts and attempts to find a parallel universe. The Kesot I find now are far more horrifying. They are real. They managed to transform themselves into multiple forms. And my childhood shaman, Tepi, I haven't met him for more than a decade.

I have grown up and day by day I see that Kesot is plotting to make the forest extinct, and when there's no more forest, sand is all there is. And Kesot will catch every one of us; they will erase our memories; they will strangle our necks and make us live by their rules.

My last encounter with the beautiful beasts was when I was running, I was crying, and I was hiding in the forest. My whole family was looking for me. They wanted me to forget my parallel universe. They wanted me to go to school and be like normal kids. I could hear them shouting my names but I wouldn't listen.

I continued to cry but the forest was empty, I wanted to meet the midget and the giants, I wanted to escape through the forest with them. This was my only chance. I didn't mind being surrounded by horrifying ghosts at night. I didn't even care if I was going to die in the forest.

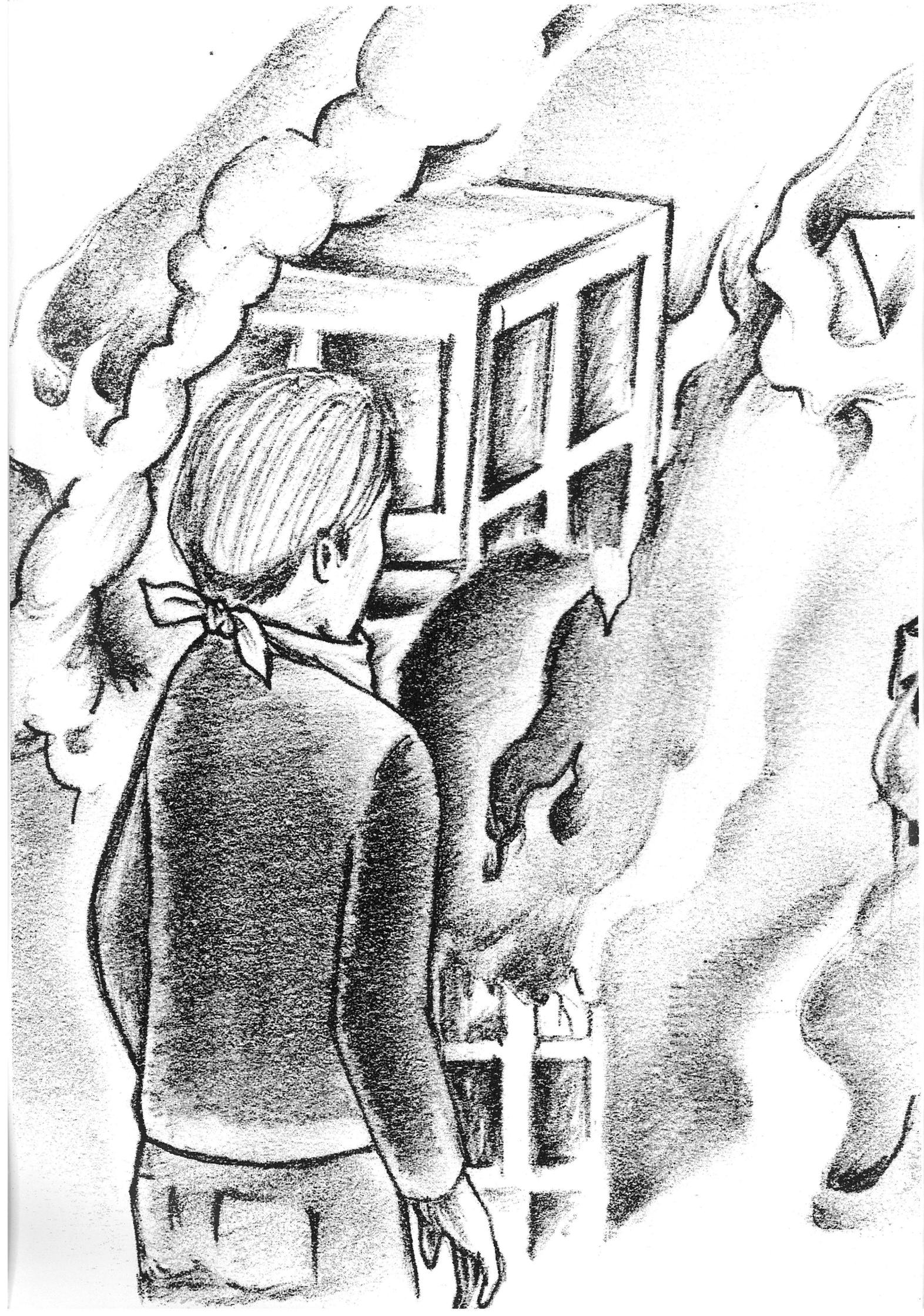


But the trees were calm. They
stood silent and bitterly
smiling. I knew my beautiful
beasts were aware of my
sadness, but they hid
themselves, they were afraid
that they would only
dissappoint me. I understand
that now.

Here in a moving train, my
beautiful long lost beast, I can
still feel your presence. And I
know that you're still hoping
that someday I'll get on the
track again.



And that parallel universe will prevail before my eyes, and Kesot, that awful ghost, will smile. She is my guidance and also my arch-enemy.





Dear Tepi, I have navigated with raging soul far from paternal home passing beyond the seas double rocks and now I inhabit a foreign land. Wait for me, I'll find you; not in the past nor in the future. But in the here and now, where cities falls and languages are destroyed, I will find you in the blooming and in the dying of every living beings.