

# The Power Story

hanamaru fuji

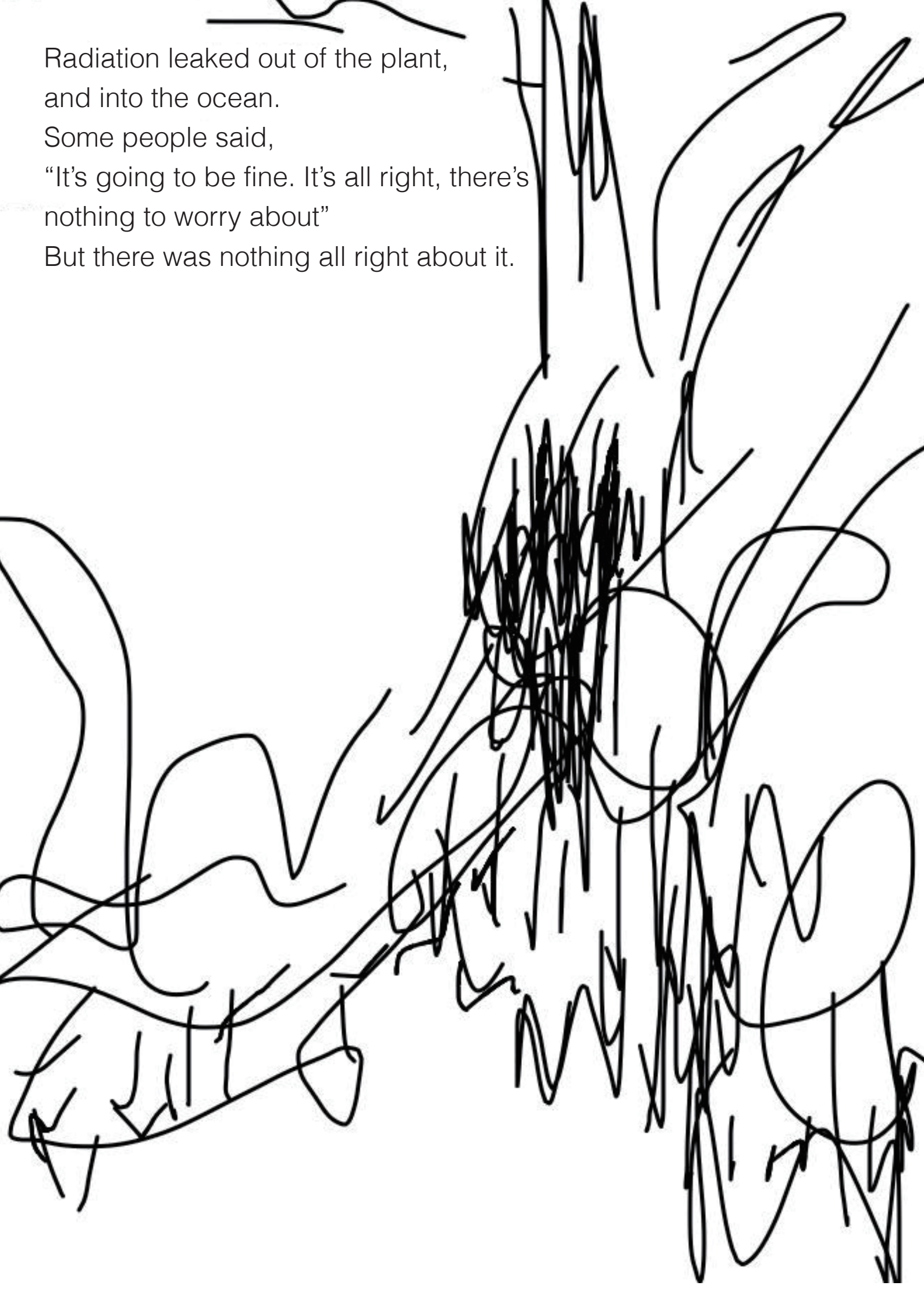
One day, there was a big earthquake.  
Then a big tsunami came.

The tsunami destroyed everything in its  
path, including a nuclear power plant.  
Built not far from the shore, some people  
said the plant is resistant to earthquakes  
and tidal waves.

But it wasn't.

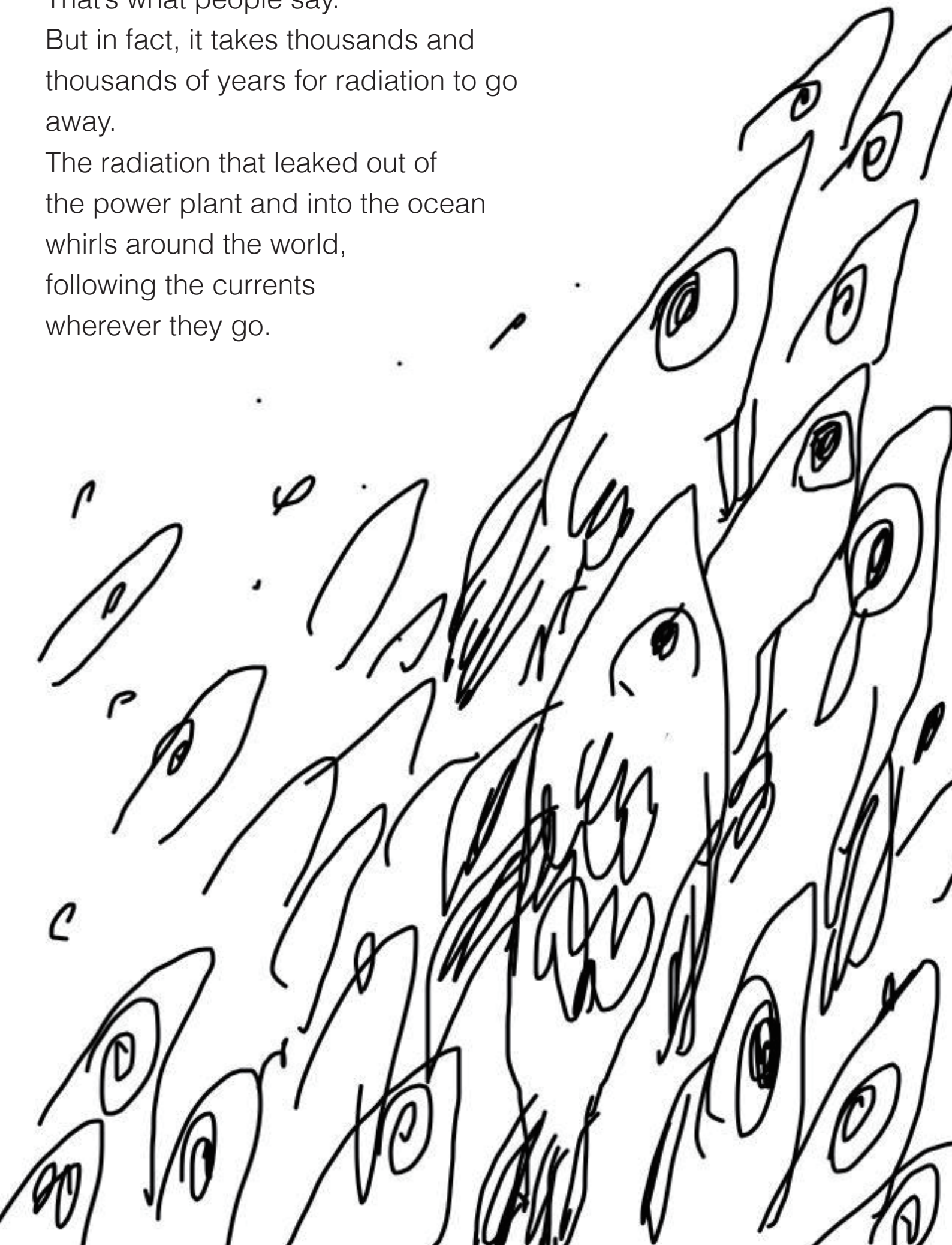
A large, dense, black scribble made of many overlapping, curved and straight lines, covering the bottom half of the page. It appears to be a chaotic, abstract drawing or a very heavy scribble.

Radiation leaked out of the plant,  
and into the ocean.  
Some people said,  
“It’s going to be fine. It’s all right, there’s  
nothing to worry about”  
But there was nothing all right about it.



“It’ll be all over soon”  
That’s what people say.  
But in fact, it takes thousands and  
thousands of years for radiation to go  
away.

The radiation that leaked out of  
the power plant and into the ocean  
whirls around the world,  
following the currents  
wherever they go.



The fish know.

The fish know that the oceans are one,  
that all oceans are one giant Ocean.

They know that

where you're swimming,

or standing,

or walking now

is connected to all the places you've ever

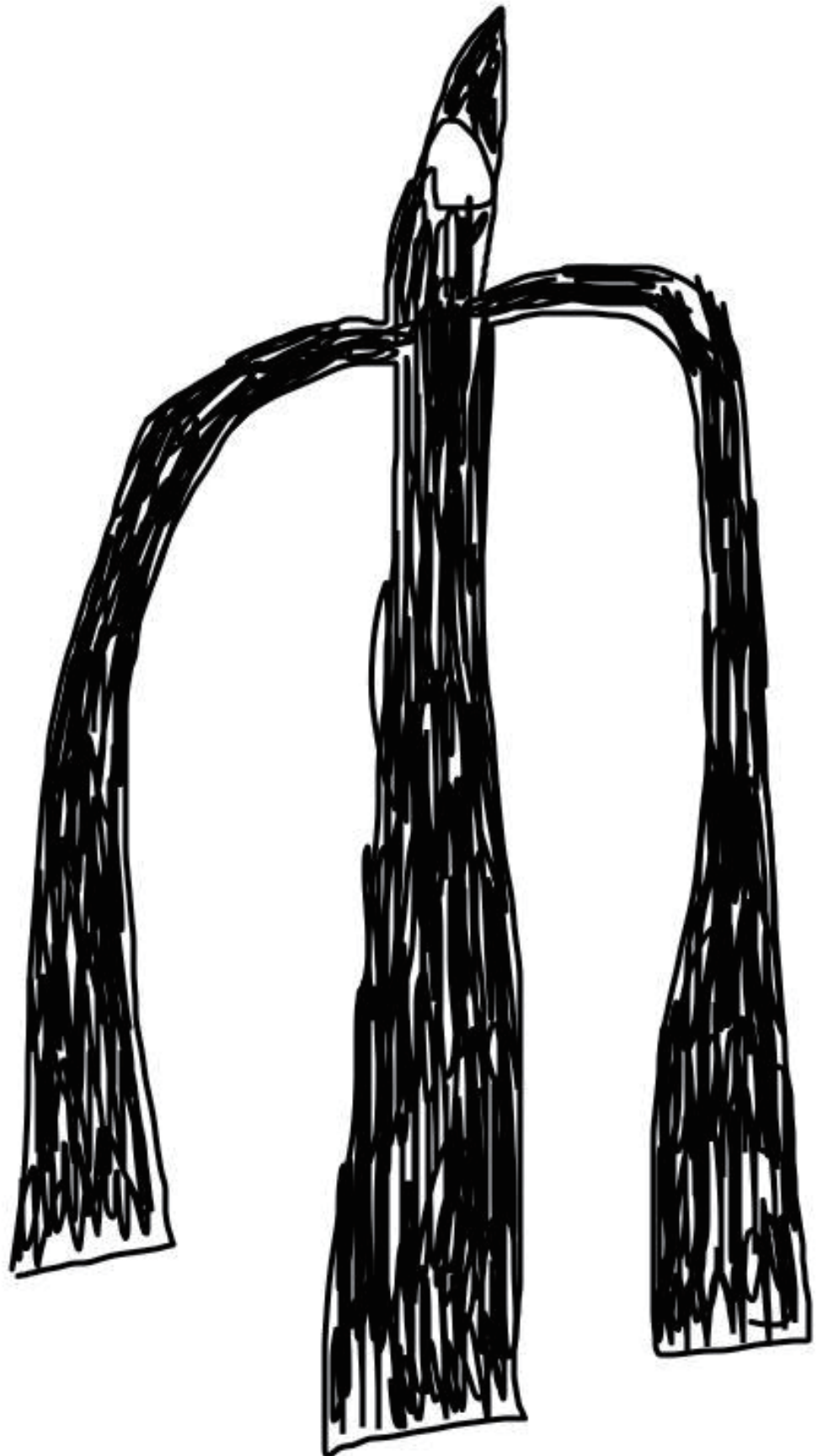
been and to all the places you'll go.



The birds know.

The birds know that it's not okay.

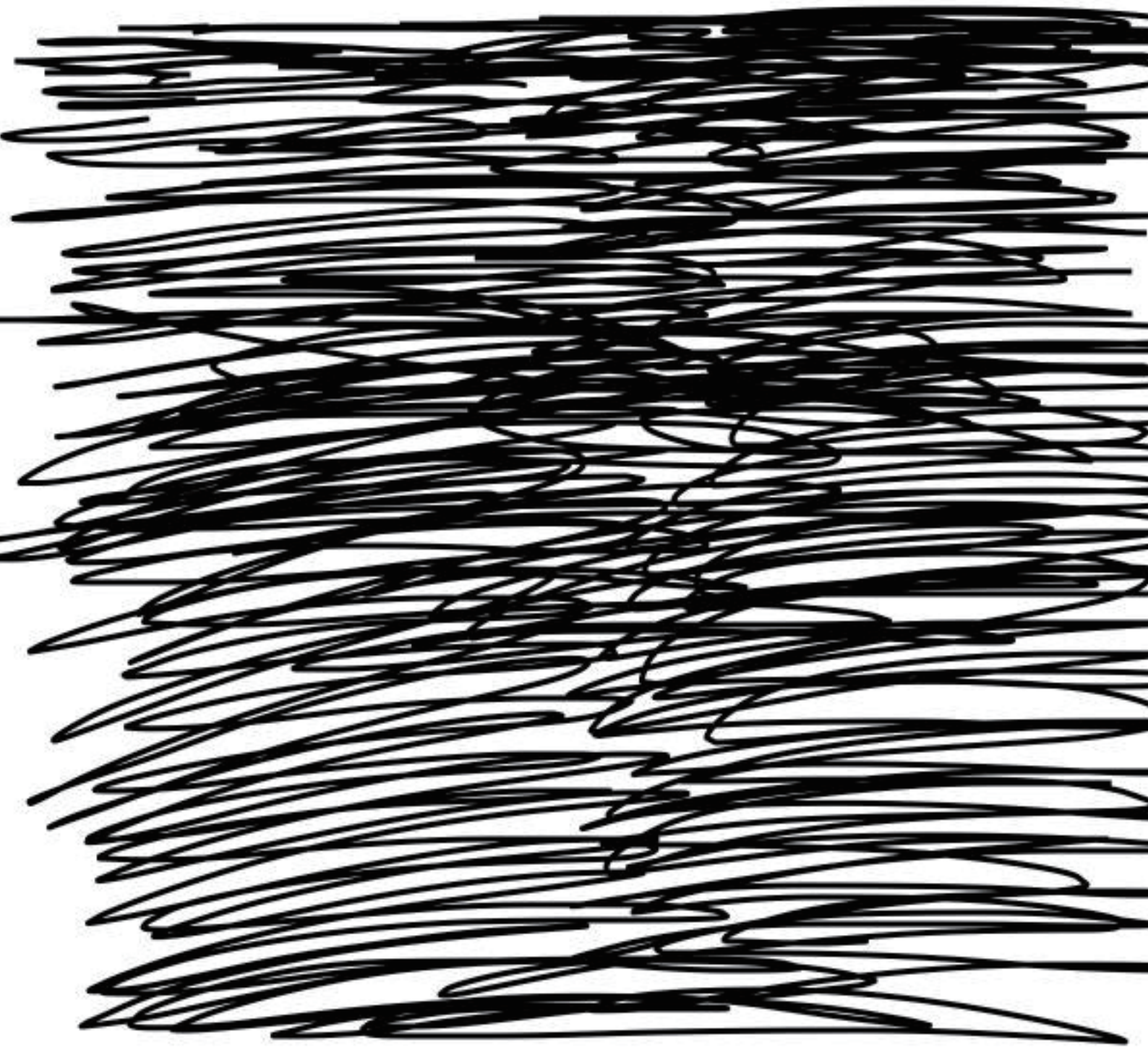
They know that if you let them, the  
westerly winds will carry you,  
and help you to go far, far away.



The Land knows.

The Land knows  
about life before us.

And the Land knows  
about life  
after we'll have gone.



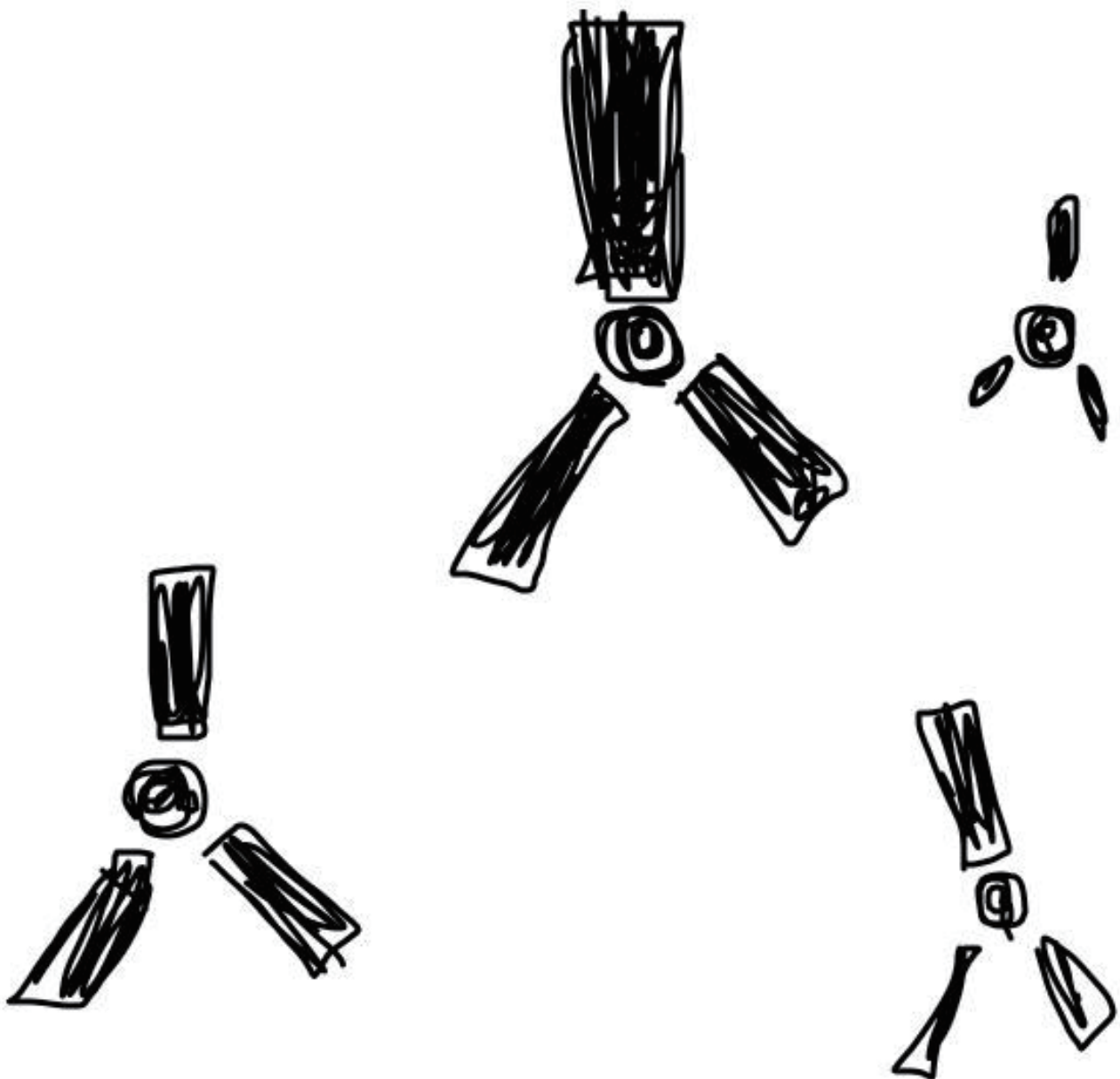
Humans, in our quest for energy,

have created something untamable: man made radiation.

Unfortunately, when energy is made at the nuclear power plant, there is a lot of poison made with it.

Plutonium is one example of a very, very potent poison.

People can die from it, but it's not just us- so can the Sky, the Ocean and the Land, and everything that lives in it, and on it.





And even so, there are many people who say that  
we need radiation.

“We won’t have electricity!” they say.

“What will we do without electricity??!” they cry.

They say that making nuclear energy to  
create electricity is cheap  
and that it’s safe.



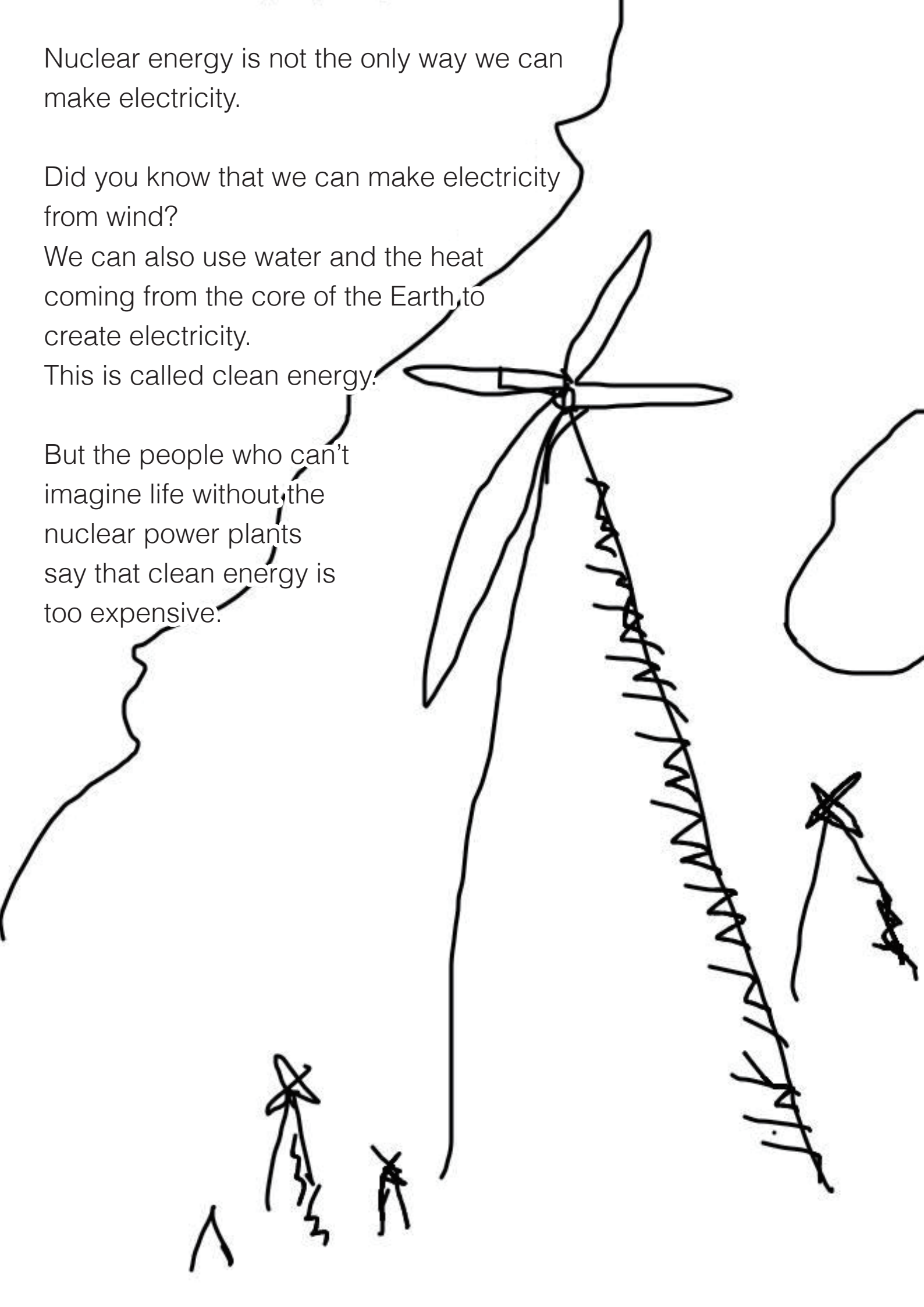
Nuclear energy is not the only way we can make electricity.

Did you know that we can make electricity from wind?

We can also use water and the heat coming from the core of the Earth, to create electricity.

This is called clean energy.

But the people who can't imagine life without the nuclear power plants say that clean energy is too expensive.



Well, nuclear energy- or creating energy with the nuclear power plants- seems inexpensive. But that's because no one has thought about what happens when there are accidents and that hasn't been added into the math.

When accidents happen at nuclear power plants, the area around the plant can become so contaminated or poisoned that it is too dangerous to live and work anywhere near the plant. When it becomes too contaminated, the people who live nearby need to move as far away as possible in order to get away from the radiation poison, or go to the hospital to be treated.

Well, is nuclear energy really cheap? If no one has thought about how much all of these things will cost, then is it really cheap? How can we know? How much will it be for families to move? How much will hospital bills come out to? And who will pay for this?



There are many people who have been forced to leave their homes and live in shelters in order to survive.

But the real question is not about how much it costs.

After all, if children can get so sick they might die, could we ever put a price on that?



So why we can't we stop using nuclear power and radiation? Why can't we try something else?

There are many greedy people who only want to make a lot of money, even if it means lying to people and deceiving them, and even if it means that there is a big possibility that the people who live near the plants will be sick.

These greedy people say it's safe, but they stay very, very far from the power plants and get other people to do what's dangerous - the "dirty work".

And they continue to make lots and lots of money this way.



The greedy people try their best to keep their dark secret hidden from everyone.

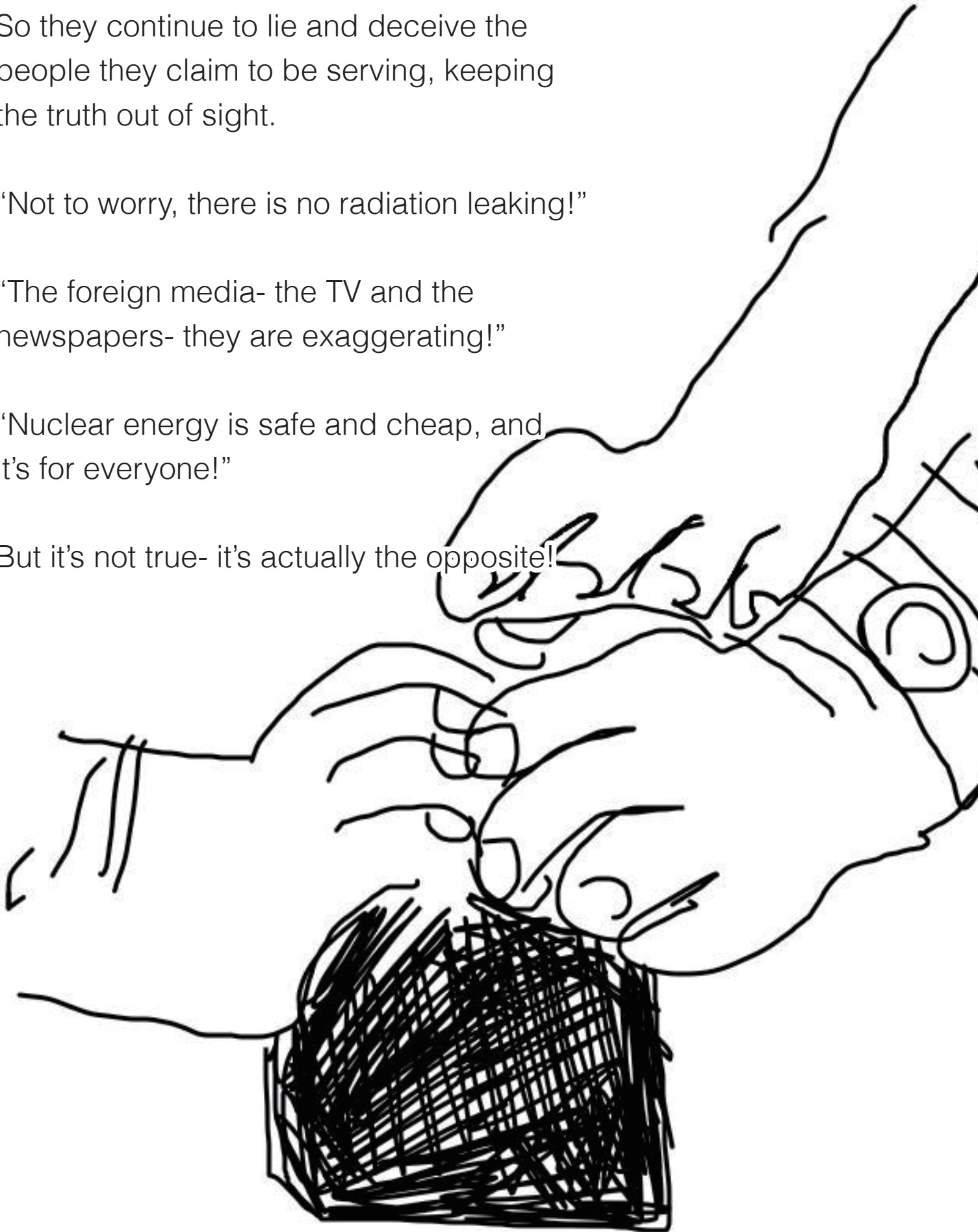
So they continue to lie and deceive the people they claim to be serving, keeping the truth out of sight.

“Not to worry, there is no radiation leaking!”

“The foreign media- the TV and the newspapers- they are exaggerating!”

“Nuclear energy is safe and cheap, and it’s for everyone!”

But it’s not true- it’s actually the opposite!



And there are the people who say,  
“Well, there’s nothing you can do about it, anyway”  
“It’s all right now- I mean, we don’t hear  
about it in the news anymore, right ?”  
“They took care of it, it’s solved.  
Otherwise, wouldn’t they still be talking about it on TV?”

They manipulate and lead people to  
misunderstand, as long as  
it’s to their advantage.



There are adults who think that it's useless to try to change things. Take voting, for example. More than half of all adults think that it's useless to vote. Here is an example from an actual vote that took place:

One million votes:  
for a leader in favor of nuclear energy.

Two million votes:  
for leaders with other opinions on the issue.

And four million votes:  
they didn't get counted- four million people did not vote!

If even a fourth of the people who hadn't gone to vote *had* gone, it would've been enough to have a new leader who could have thought with us about this very important question of nuclear energy. We could have made a change.

Together, we can still make a difference.





And you? Yes, you!

You're still too young to vote.

But you can still look around you, listen to what's going on, and try understand what people are feeling.

Open your eyes, your ears, and your heart. Ask yourself,

“Is it okay to sit back and do nothing when someone's right to happiness being taken away from them? “ “Is it okay to make a lot of money from that?”

Could you forgive anyone who would do that to another person?

And more importantly, could you forgive yourself for knowing this is happening, and not saying or doing anything about it?



“Well... I don't know what we should do.”

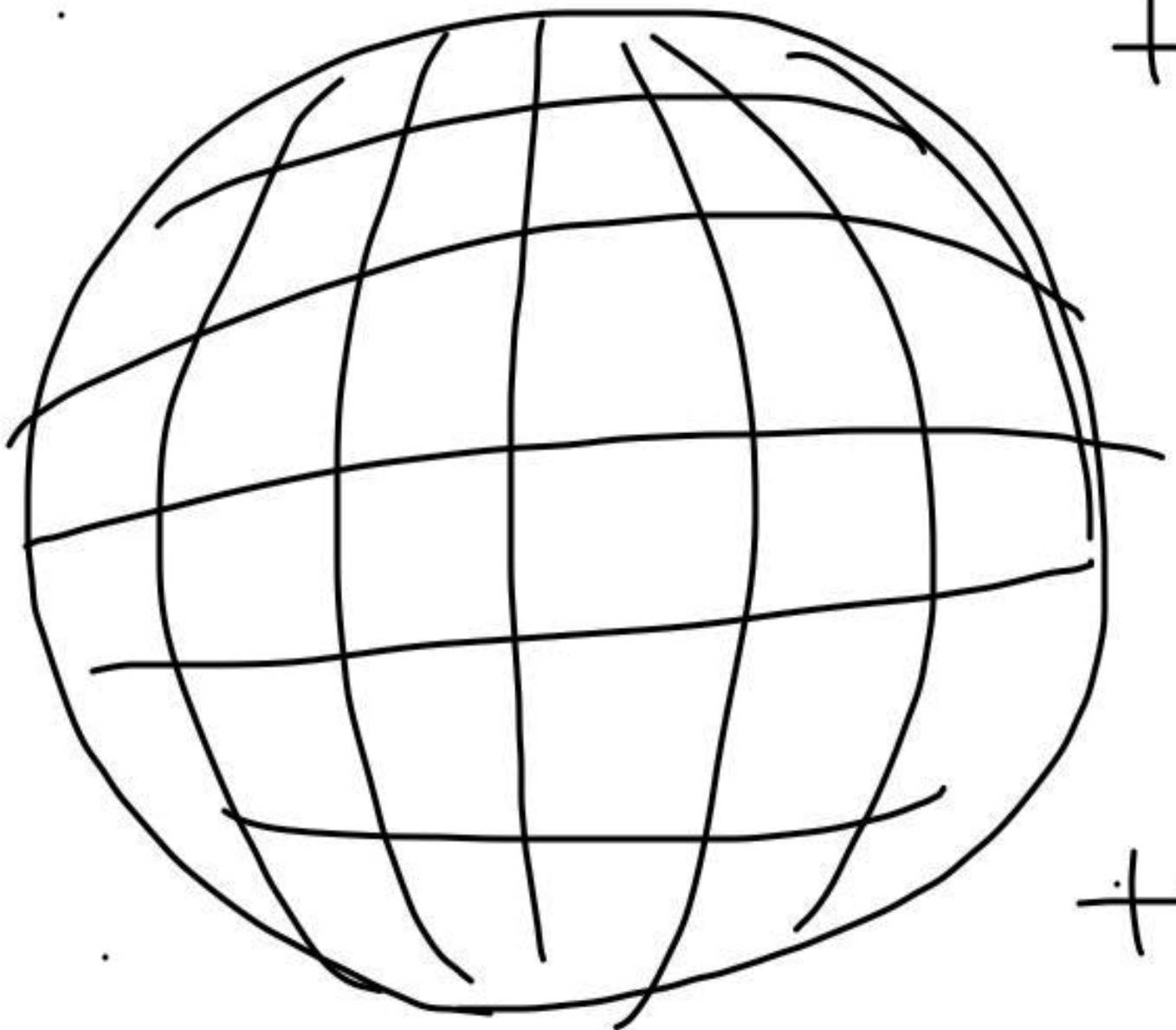
Did this cross your mind? It does for a lot of people.

Our problem with energy is such a big one, and one that is very complex.

So far, no one has been able to come up with a solution.

So far, no one on the planet has been able to say,

“I know! I've know exactly what we can do to make everyone on this planet happy!”



All over the world, there are so many people

with so many opinions and ways of looking at a situation.

Conflict, unfortunately, is a part of the world we live in.

Even so, we must believe there is a solution,

and work together towards finding it,

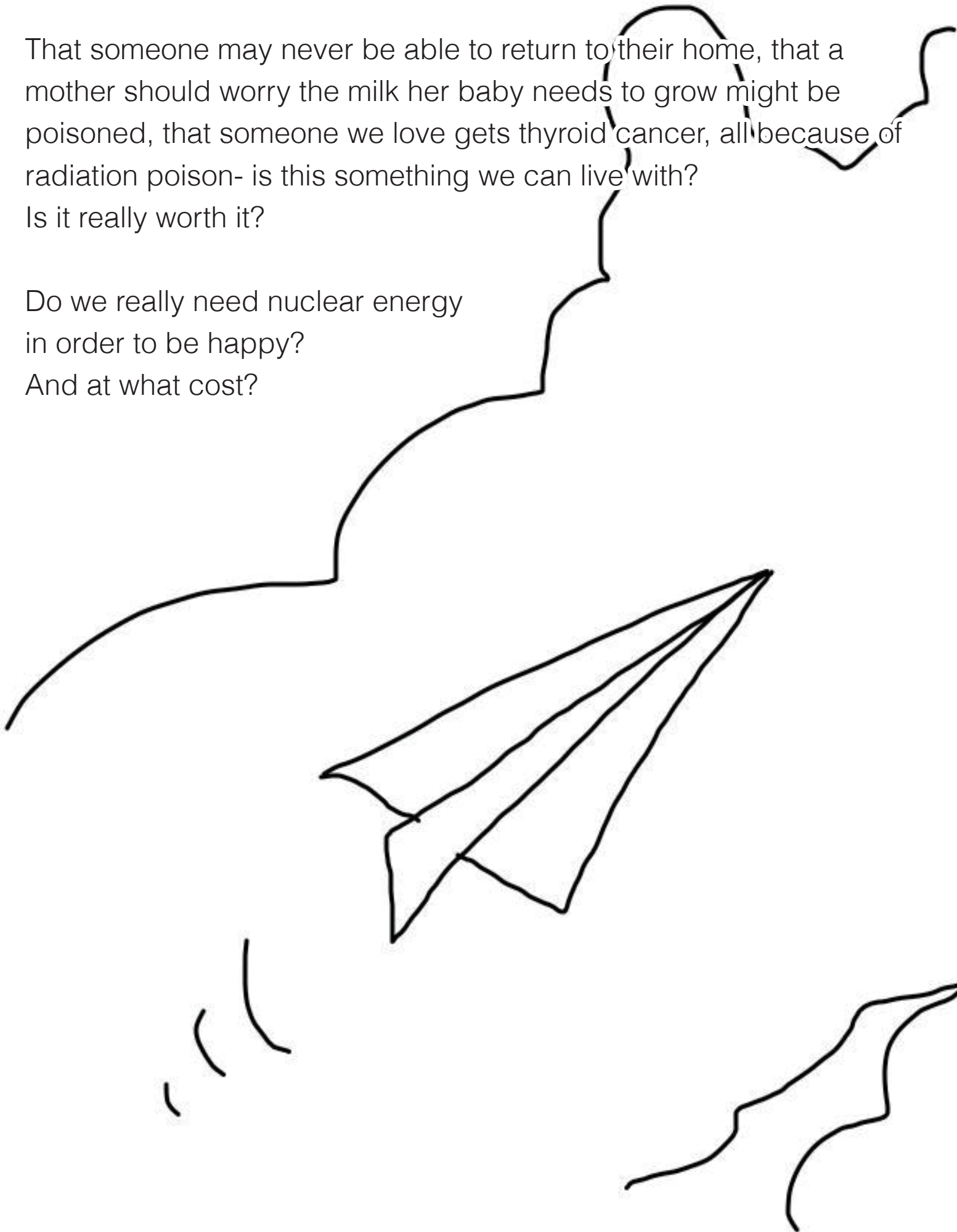
and making it a reality.



In the meantime, radiation will not disappear.

That someone may never be able to return to their home, that a mother should worry the milk her baby needs to grow might be poisoned, that someone we love gets thyroid cancer, all because of radiation poison- is this something we can live with?  
Is it really worth it?

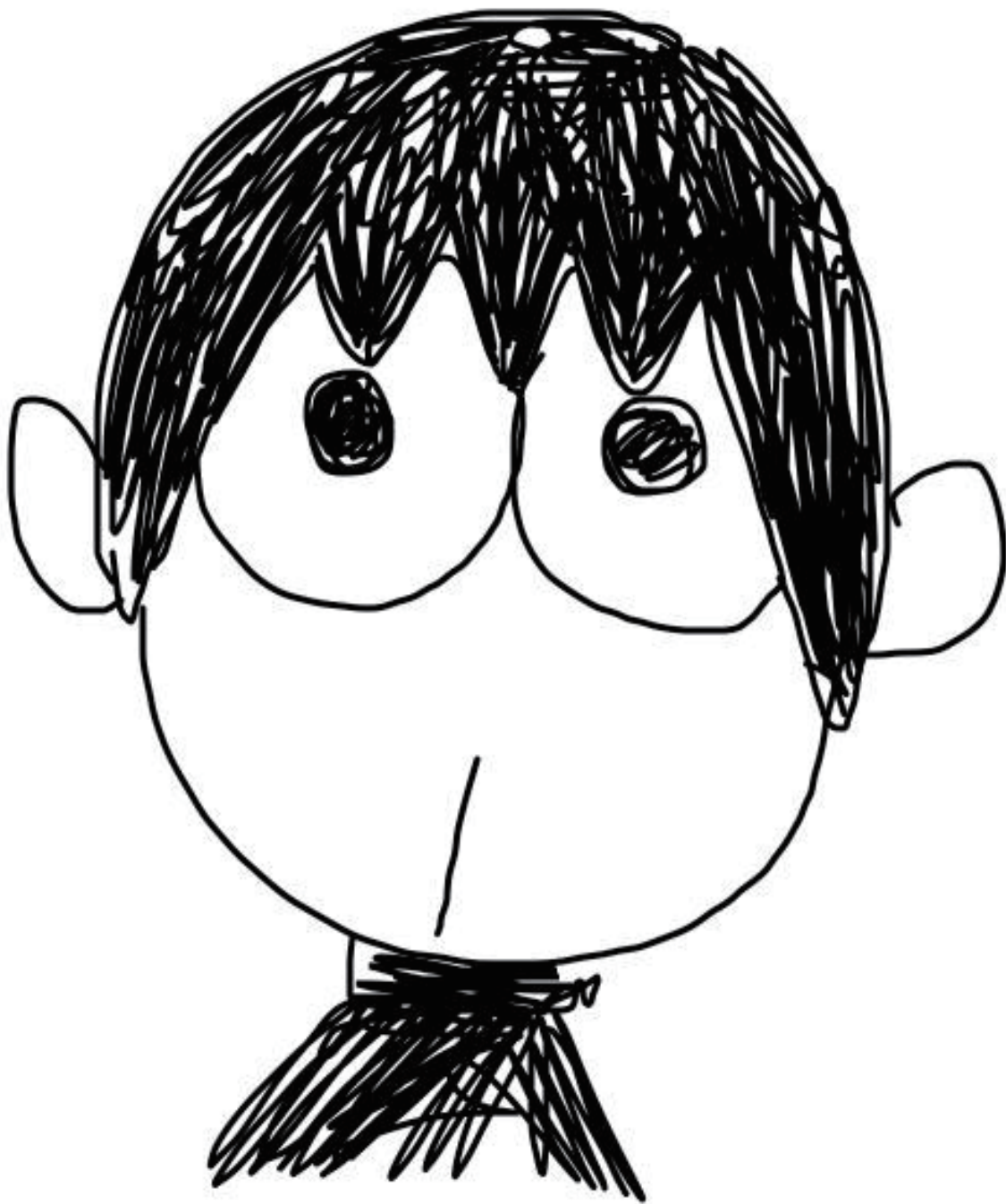
Do we really need nuclear energy  
in order to be happy?  
And at what cost?



Keep your eyes, your ears, and your heart open.  
Try to see, hear, and feel what is the truth.

Try to learn as much as you can about nuclear energy  
and what is going on around us. This way, you will be prepared to  
discuss matters intelligently with others.

You can become part of the solution.  
You have the power to bring about change.



When there is someone in need, lend them your hand.

Stay healthy and strong so that  
you can offer your strength.



If you want to know the truth and need to see what's happening with your own eyes, go.

And when you go, always keep the light of courage and hope in your heart.



When the public stays uninformed and in the dark,  
we become a large part of the problem.

The greedy people like when people don't learn,  
it allows them to keep doing what they're doing.

Don't fall into the trap. Someone one once said,  
"Knowledge is power". We need to know more, learn more.

No one can take that away from us.

We need to share information and to discuss.

We need to connect and unite.

From this, let's form our own opinions,  
express them in our own words, ask our own questions.

And let's act.





This is our responsibility,  
our call to duty.

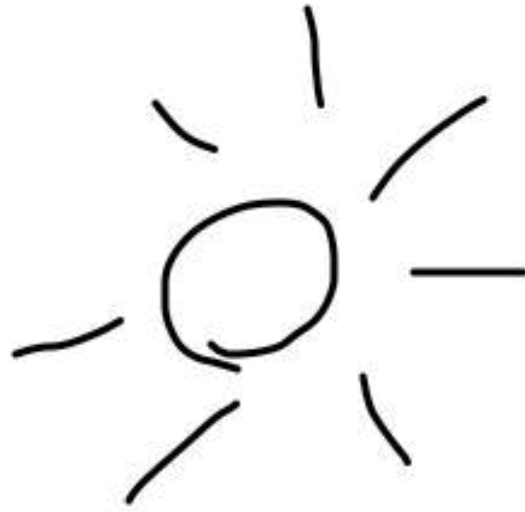
Never forget

it's up to each one of us to know more,  
to help and share, as well as to act.

At least until the day the Skies, the Land,  
and the Water are clean and well again,

we need to remember  
and use our own power  
to make a change  
for what's right.





The End

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"The Power story"  
by hanamarufujii

special Thanks: Akiko Lighthouse

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