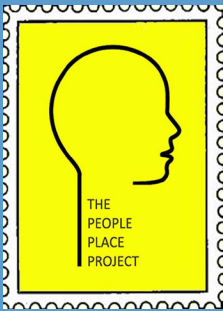


71%



71% is a book about water teaching about the importance of our surroundings in a fun and interactive way. The book teaches us how humans relationship with water has been changing through time giving making the reader understand the different uses and the importance of water for survival. The book tells a story about water in a descriptive and imaginative way.



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The People Place Project

71%

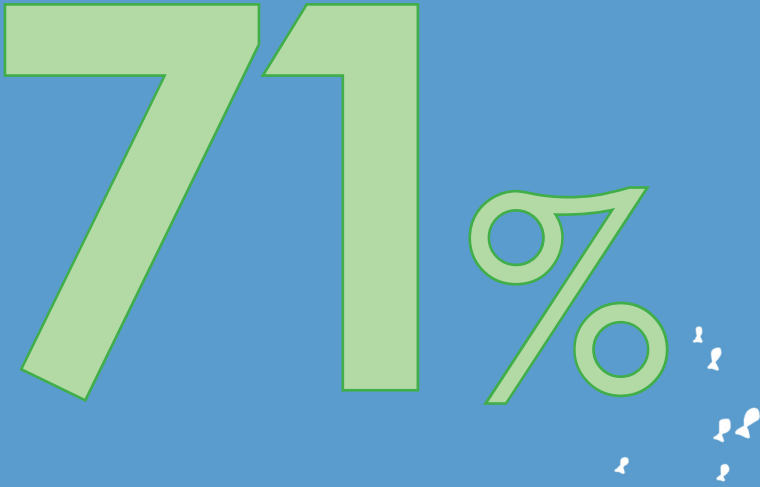
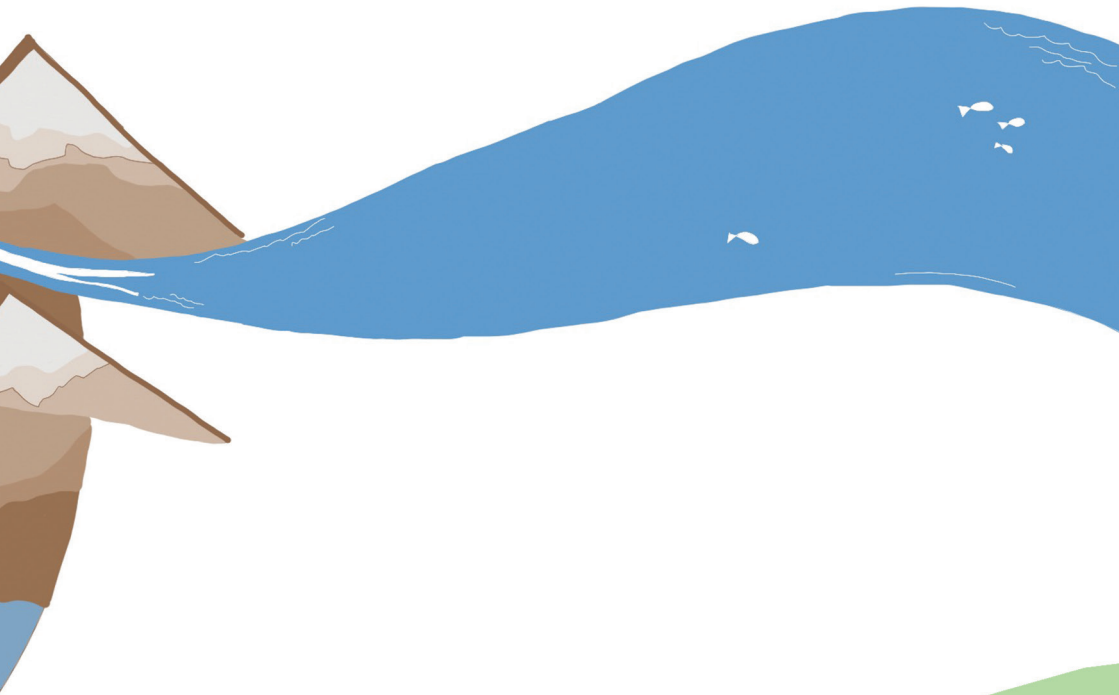
The image features the text '71%' in a large, bold, light green font with a dark green outline. To the right of the percentage sign, there is a cluster of small, white, stylized human figures. Some figures are standing, while others appear to be falling or in motion, suggesting a group of people. The background is a solid blue color.

Illustration by: Aayushi Sejpal





So you do know what makes up 71% of the earth's surface...
Yes it is **W . A . T . E . R**
They are big Oceans, massive Lakes, flowing Rivers,
smaller Rivulets, Icy Glaciers, Historic Aquifers and so
many avatars. Why is the story of water, the story of
Humans?



Humans discovered agriculture on the banks of rivers. To take care of their farms they settled around it, soon creating structures of work and society as we see today. Water no longer just tended their farms, but was also pulled into their homes for everyday. Thus.....

Water gave a way to life!





For settlements away from water sources, we discovered to tap into the belly of the earth and reach underground water... by digging wells! Some kings made wells with beautiful steps, while some governments gave away hand pumps. Even the cacti had to bloom...

Water was a life giver.

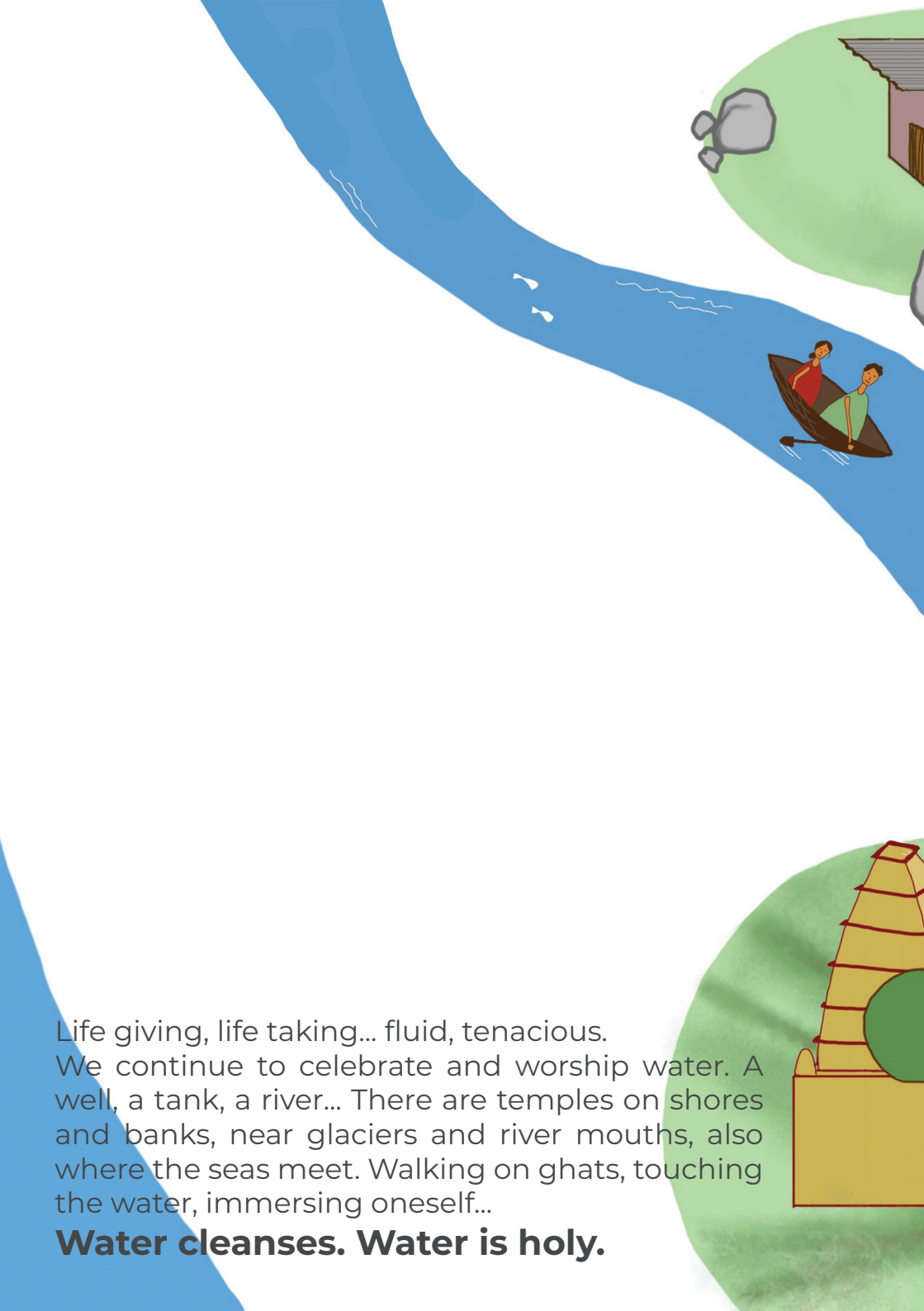




With dams across rivers, the settlements became cities, cities became urban centres. When the flow of water was controlled, did the villages that submerged get rehabilitated? Humans knew now...

Water was power!

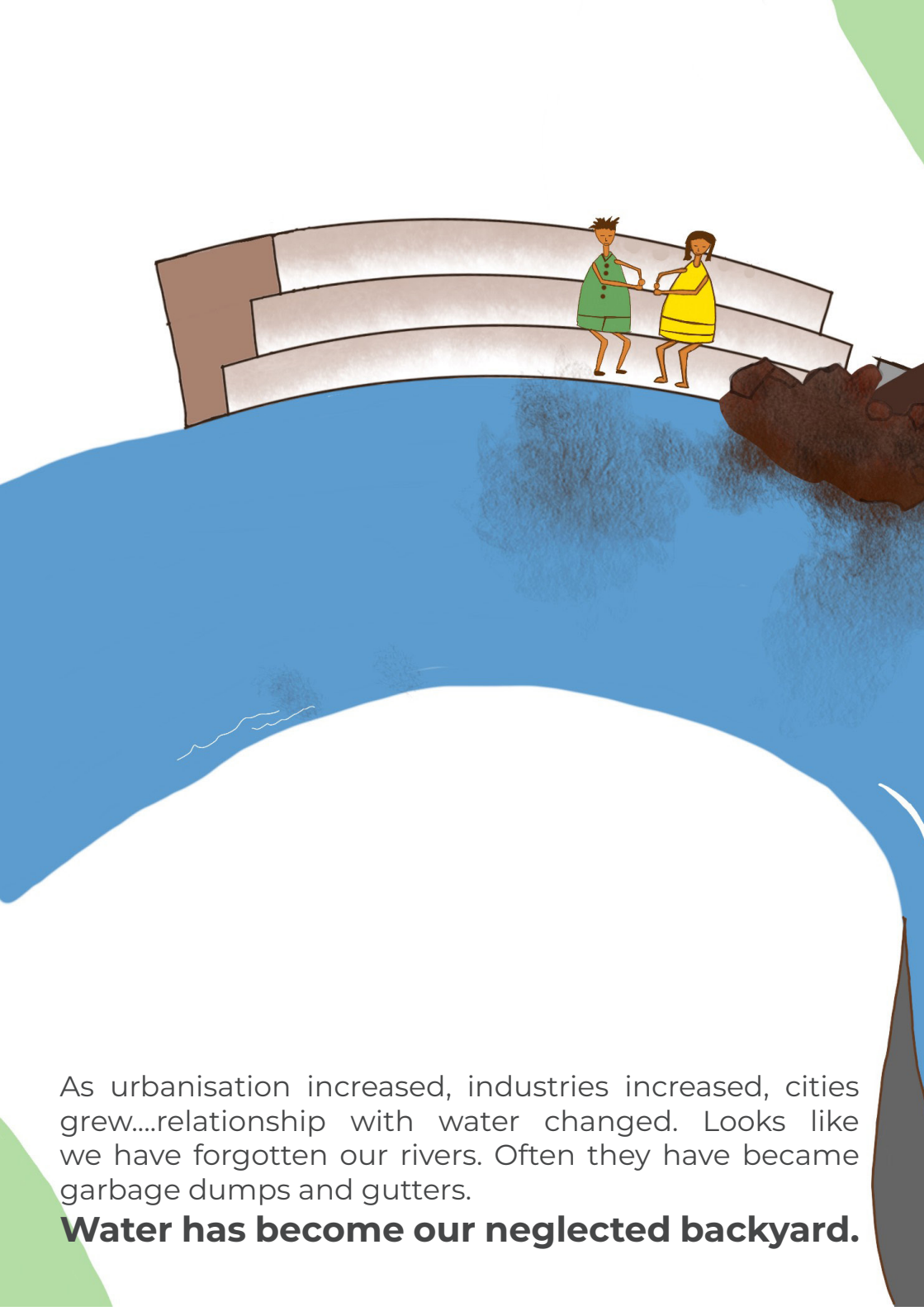




Life giving, life taking... fluid, tenacious.
We continue to celebrate and worship water. A
well, a tank, a river... There are temples on shores
and banks, near glaciers and river mouths, also
where the seas meet. Walking on ghats, touching
the water, immersing oneself...

Water cleanses. Water is holy.



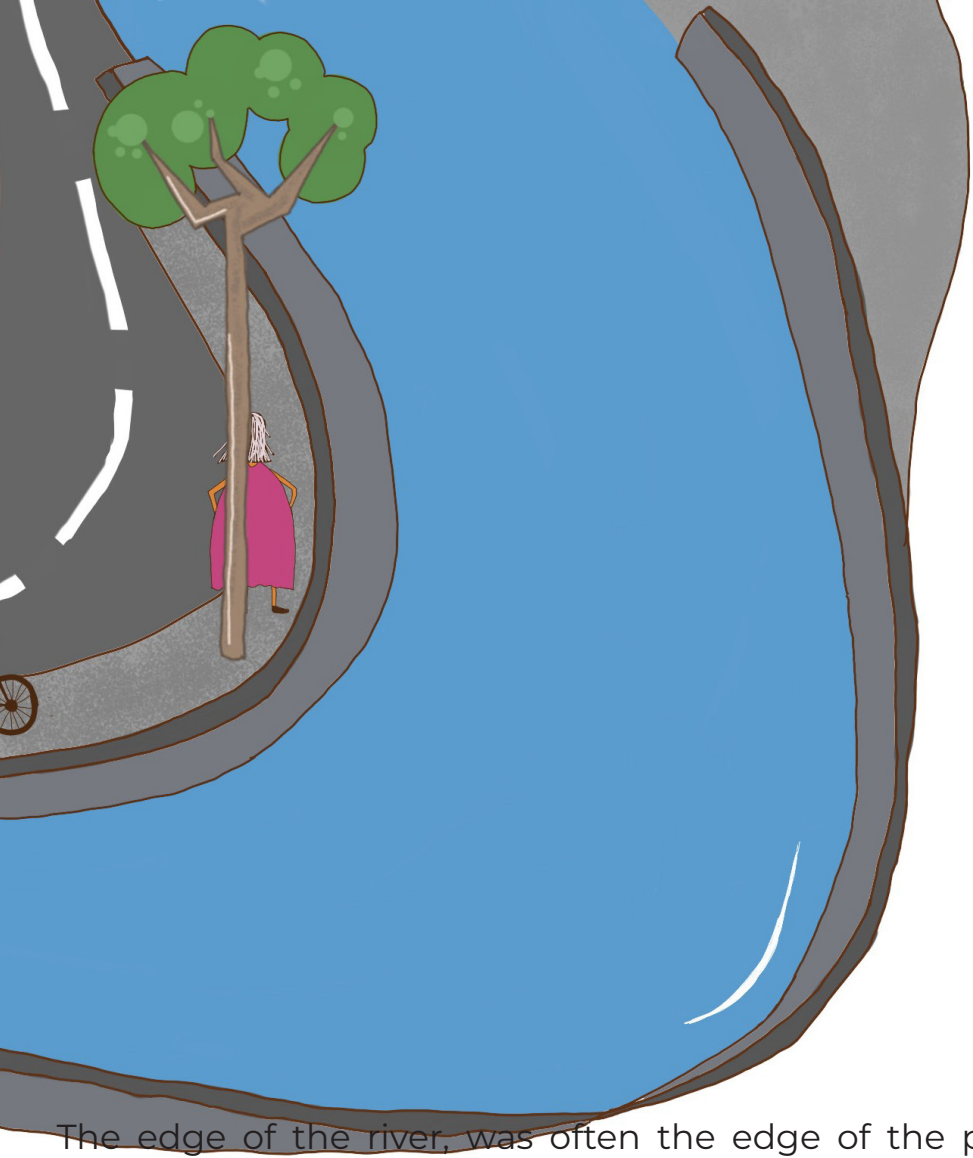


As urbanisation increased, industries increased, cities grew....relationship with water changed. Looks like we have forgotten our rivers. Often they have become garbage dumps and gutters.

Water has become our neglected backyard.



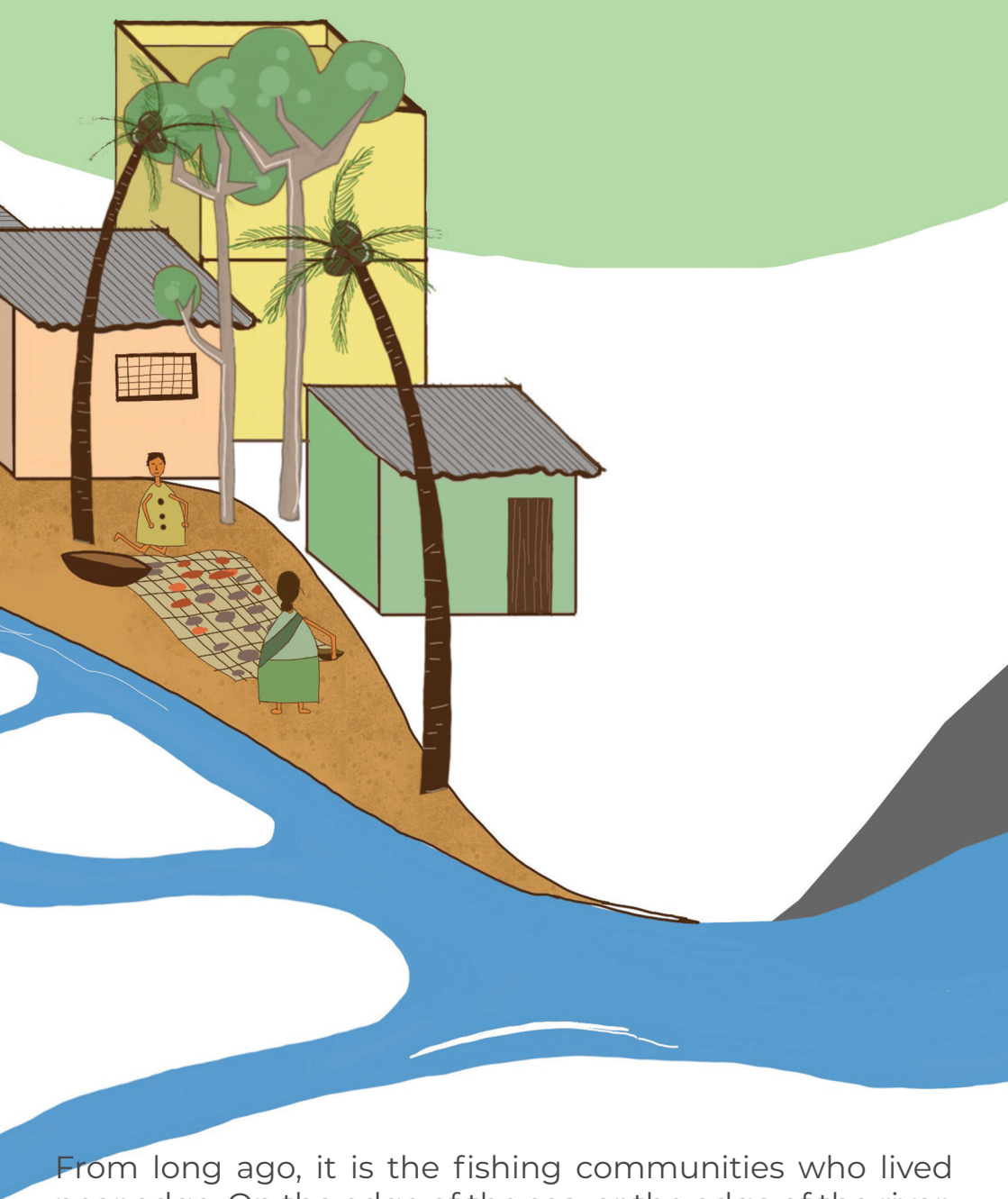




The edge of the river, was often the edge of the place. The river bank or the dried up river bed. It was no man's land to claim, and everybody's land to claim. There were everyday gossips over washing, the sought after weekly bazaars, month long utsavs or festivals...until now. Now with concrete embankments and flood planes, we have the city promenade to admire. People jog, talk, sing dance, gossip, have festivals...

But water is a extension to the manicured concrete landscape.





From long ago, it is the fishing communities who lived near edge. On the edge of the sea, or the edge of the river. With their boats, of many shapes and sizes, on voyages short and long, they plunged their nets, even traversed expanses of water.

Water is livelihood.



At edge of a maximum city by the sea, in pockets of sand 'the Beach' has something for everybody. It is a room of meditation. On one hand, it a part of nature's water cycle- the rivers meet the sea only to form clouds again. On the other hand, the vast expanse of water is a great social equaliser. Some will be picnicking, while others exercising. Some are playing cricket. Some one has set up a hotel. Class, caste, creed don't matter here.

Water is leisure.



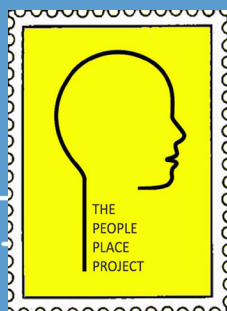


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Note from The People Place Project: The People Place Project is a research initiative that explores text as a tool of place-making and fosters a spirit of city consciousness. The publications are a way to share narratives that re-read our cities. The pockets of our city that we zoom pass everyday, events that define our cultural legacy and our relationship with both the built and natural environment that surrounds us are some of the things we hope to explore.

About the Illustrator: This book was illustrated by Aayushi Sejpal during her internship with 'People Place Project'. She is an architect and has always been interested in illustrations and ways in which learning can be made fun for children. This topic was chosen because it is important for children to learn about their surroundings and ecology, while understanding our relations with it.

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