

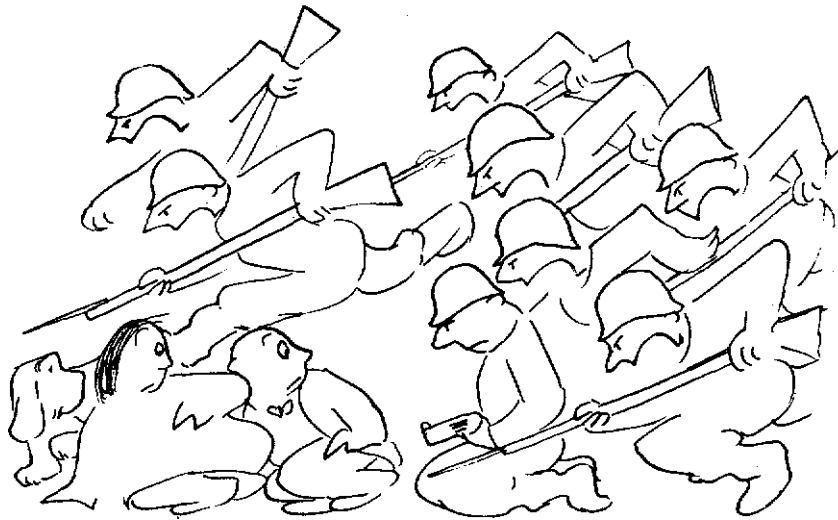
THE LAST FLOWER
A PARABLE IN PICTURES

JAMES THURBER

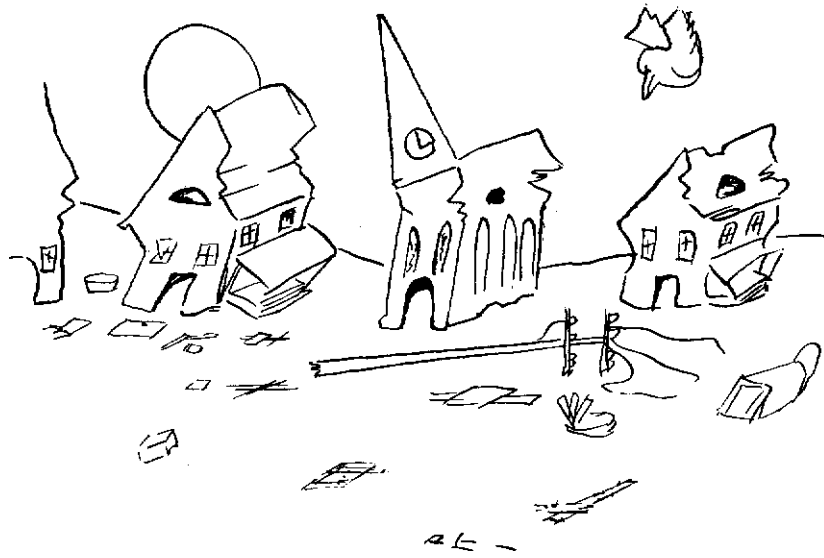
WORLD WAR XII, AS EVERYBODY KNOWS,



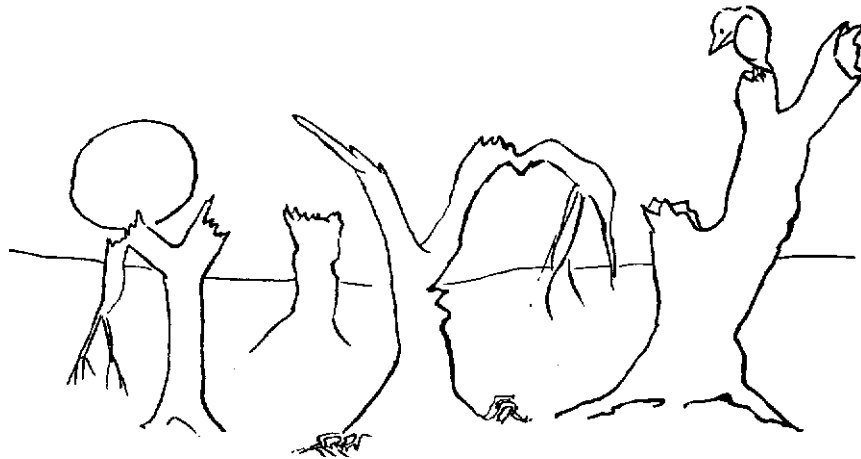
BROUGHT ABOUT THE COLLAPSE OF CIVILIZATION



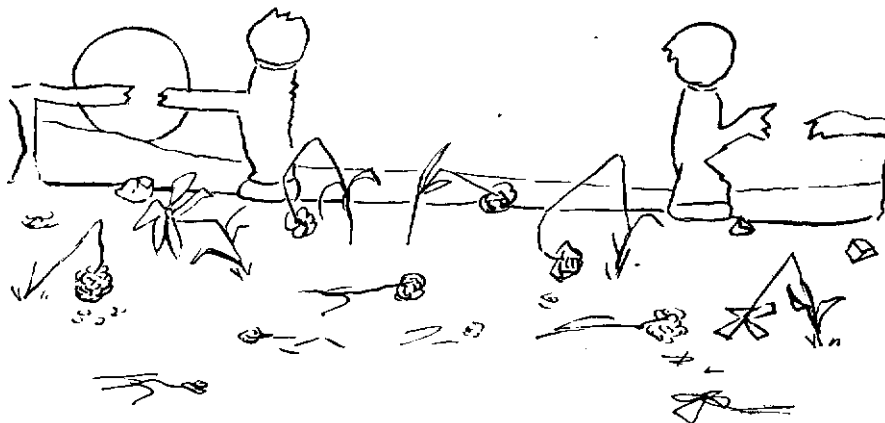
TOWNS, CITIES, AND VILLAGES DISAPPEARED
FROM THE EARTH



ALL THE GROVES AND FORESTS WERE
DESTROYED



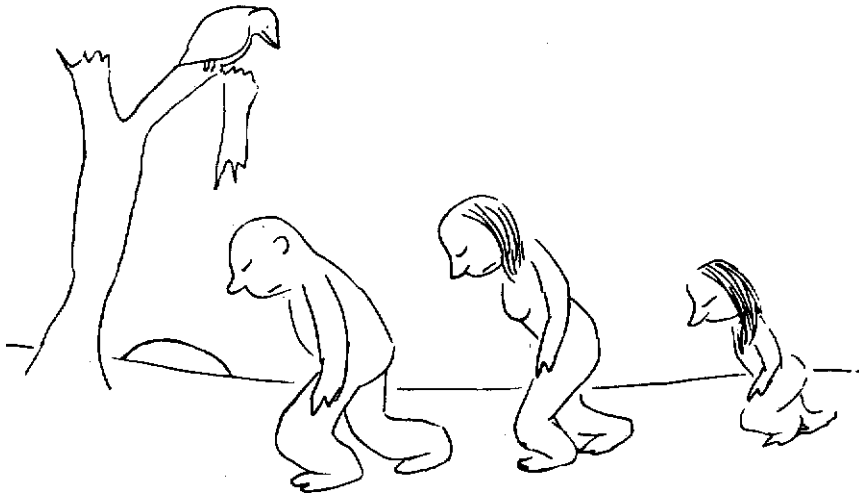
AND ALL THE GARDENS



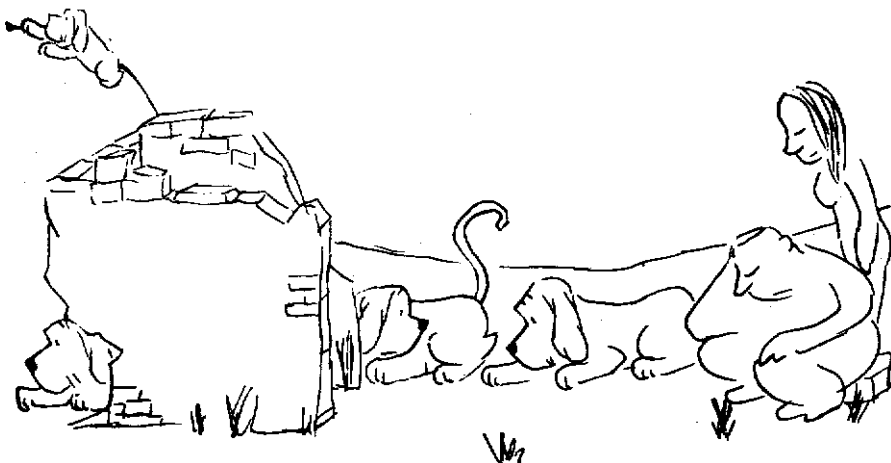
AND ALL THE WORKS OF ART



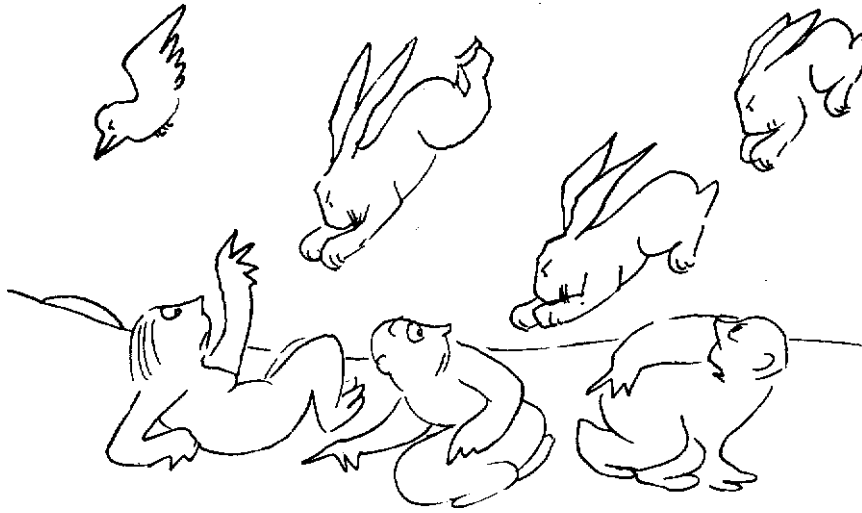
MEN, WOMEN, AND CHILDREN BECAME LOWER
THAN THE LOWER ANIMALS



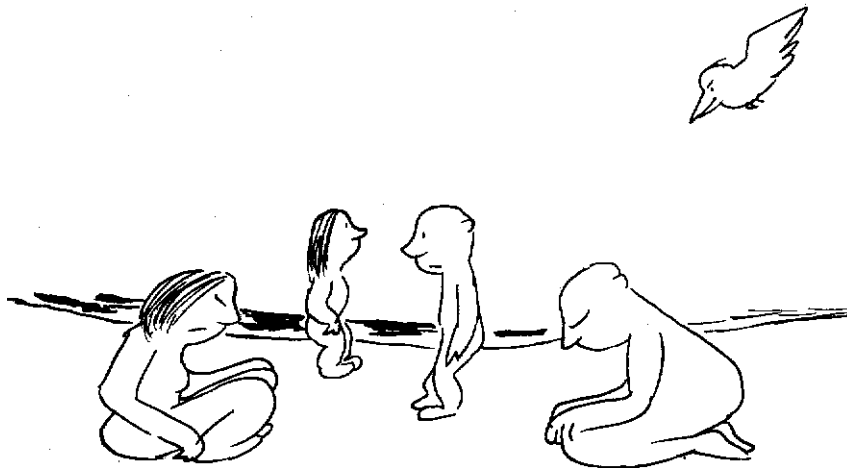
DISCOURAGED AND DISILLUSIONED, DOGS DESERTED
THEIR FALLEN MASTERS



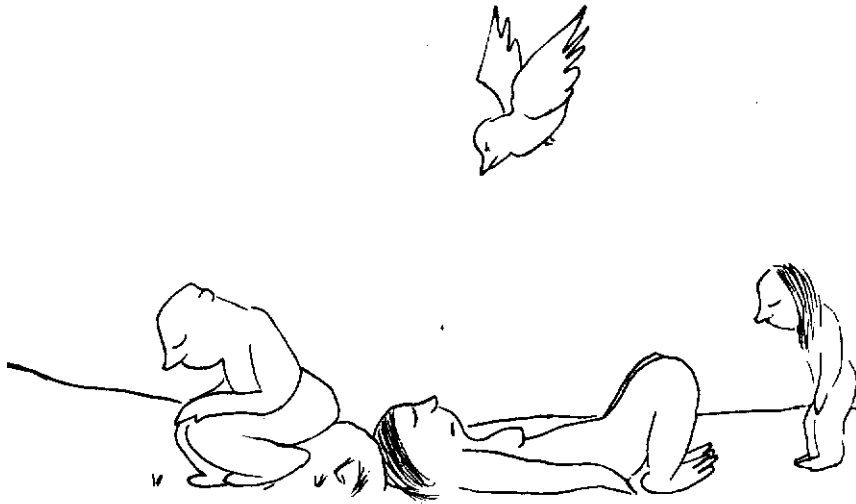
EMBOLDENED BY THE PITIFUL CONDITION
OF THE FORMER LORDS OF THE EARTH,
RABBITS DESCENDED UPON THEM



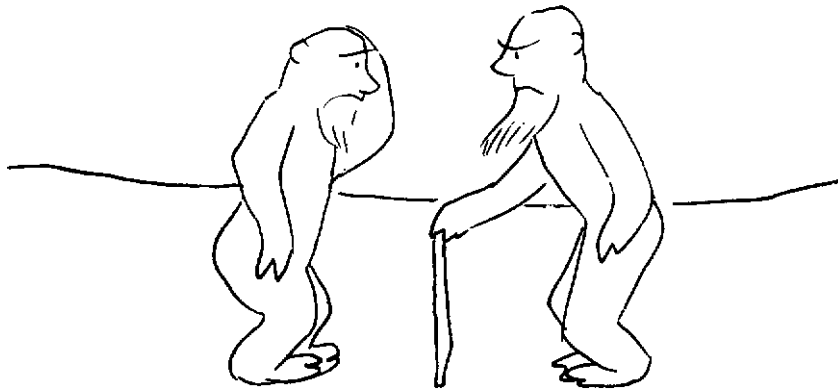
BOOKS, PAINTINGS, AND MUSIC DISAPPEARED
FROM THE EARTH, AND HUMAN BEINGS
JUST SAT AROUND DOING NOTHING



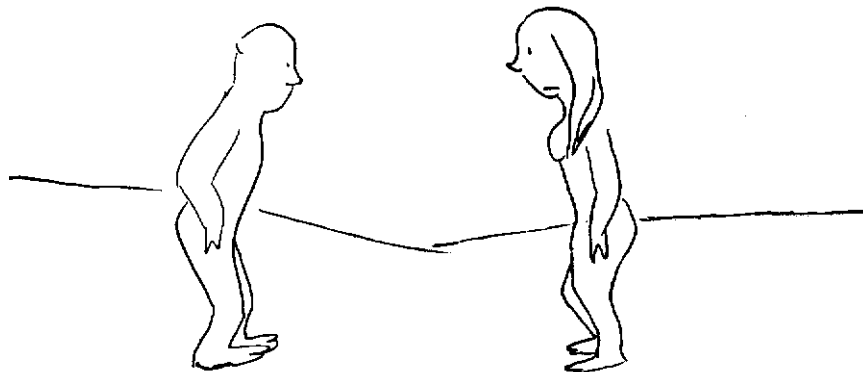
YEARS AND YEARS WENT BY



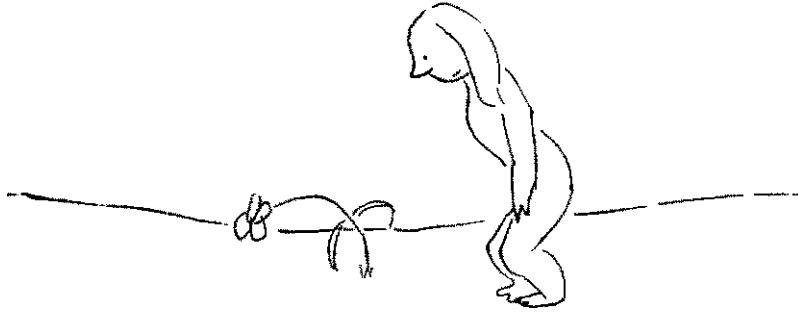
EVEN THE FEW GENERALS WHO WERE LEFT
FORGOT WHAT THE LAST WAR HAD DECIDED



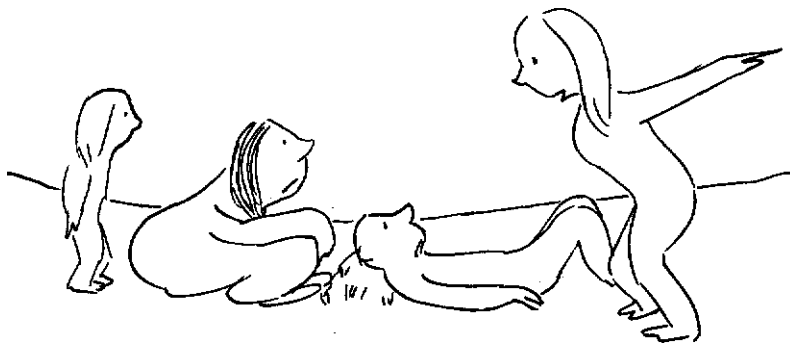
BOYS AND GIRLS GREW UP TO STARE AT EACH OTHER
BLANKLY, FOR LOVE HAD PASSED FROM THE EARTH



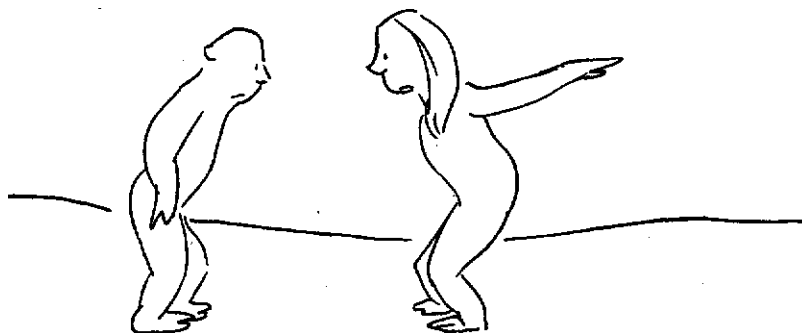
ONE DAY A YOUNG GIRL WHO HAD NEVER
SEEN A FLOWER CHANCED TO COME
UPON THE LAST ONE IN THE WORLD



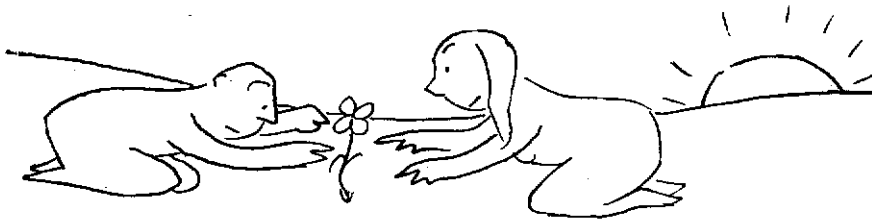
SHE TOLD THE OTHER HUMAN BEINGS
THAT THE LAST FLOWER WAS DYING



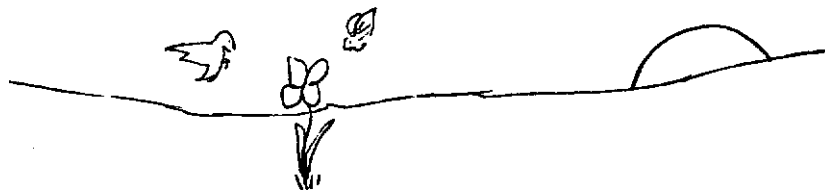
THE ONLY ONE WHO PAID ANY ATTENTION
TO HER WAS A YOUNG MAN SHE
FOUND WANDERING ABOUT



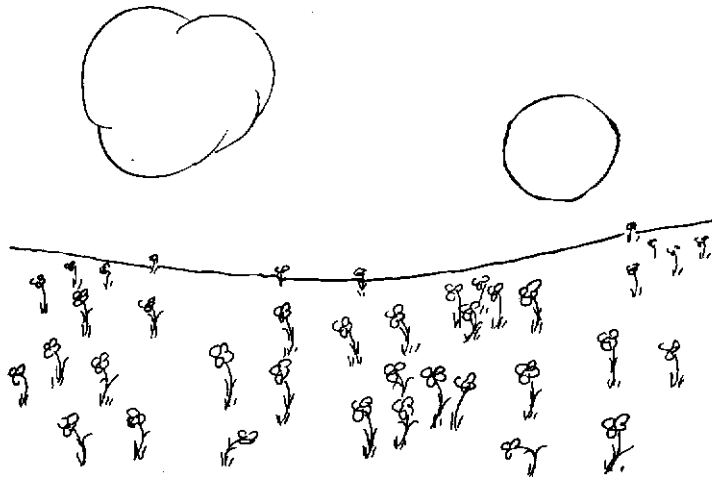
TOGETHER THE YOUNG MAN AND THE GIRL
NURTURED THE FLOWER AND IT BEGAN
TO LIVE AGAIN



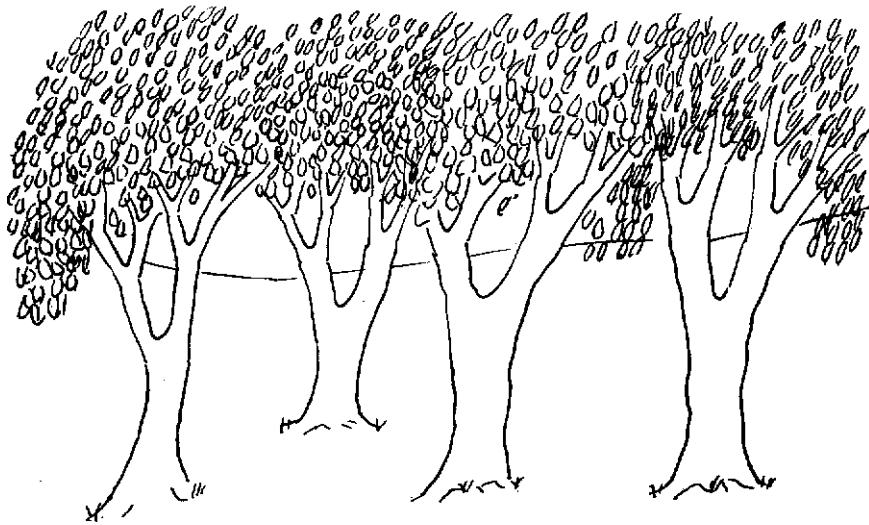
ONE DAY A BEE VISITED THE FLOWER,
AND A HUMMINGBIRD



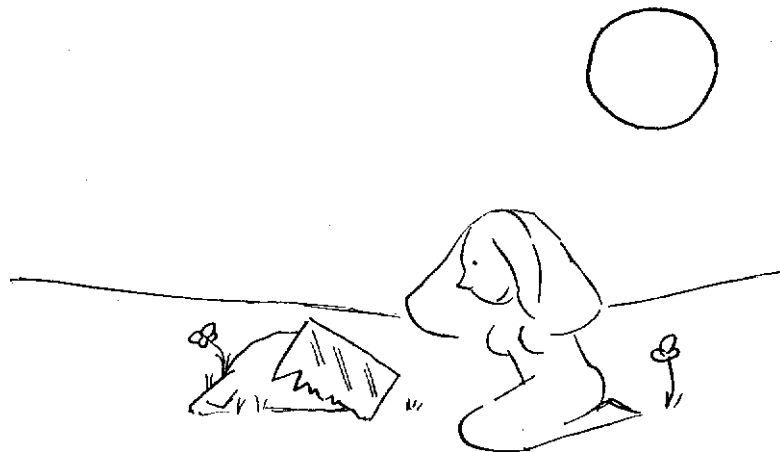
BEFORE LONG THERE WERE TWO FLOWERS, AND
THEN FOUR, AND THEN A GREAT MANY



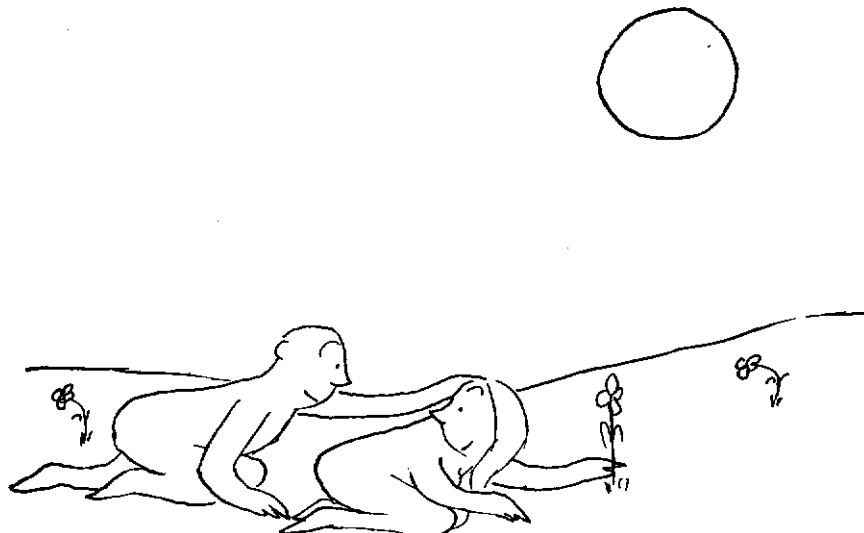
GROVES AND FORESTS FLOURISHED AGAIN



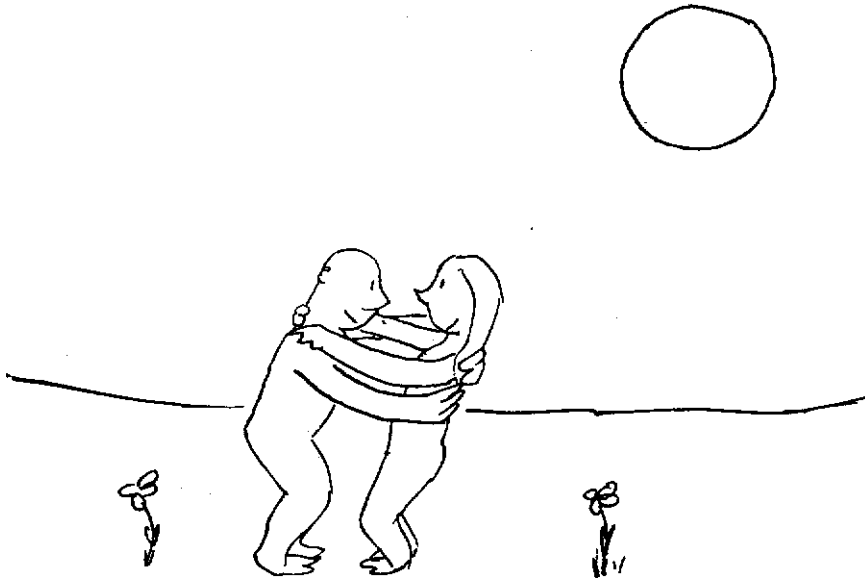
THE YOUNG GIRL BEGAN TO TAKE
AN INTEREST IN HOW SHE LOOKED



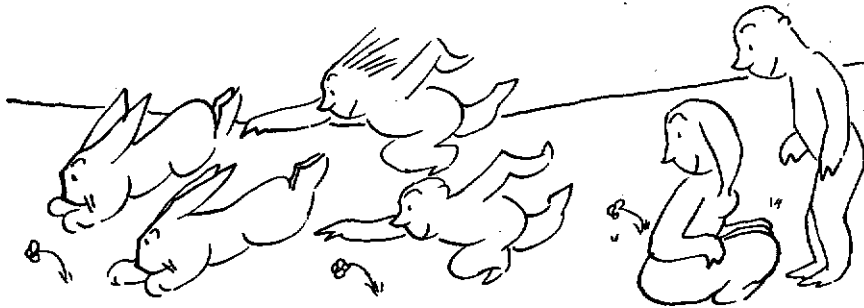
THE YOUNG MAN DISCOVERED THAT
TOUCHING THE GIRL WAS PLEASURABLE



LOVE WAS REBORN INTO THE WORLD



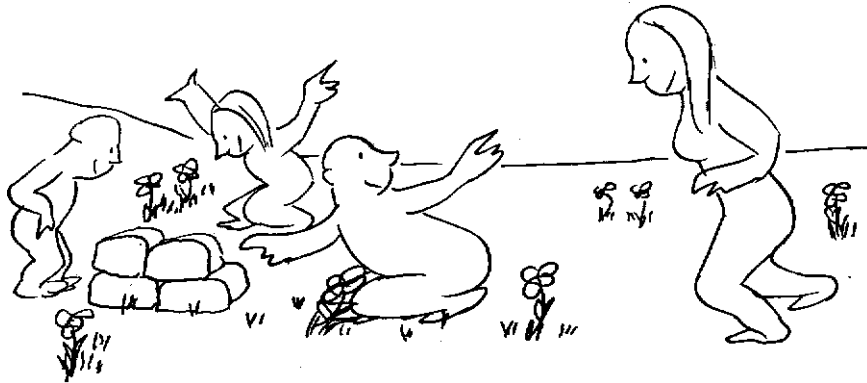
THEIR CHILDREN GREW UP STRONG AND HEALTHY
AND LEARNED TO RUN AND LAUGH



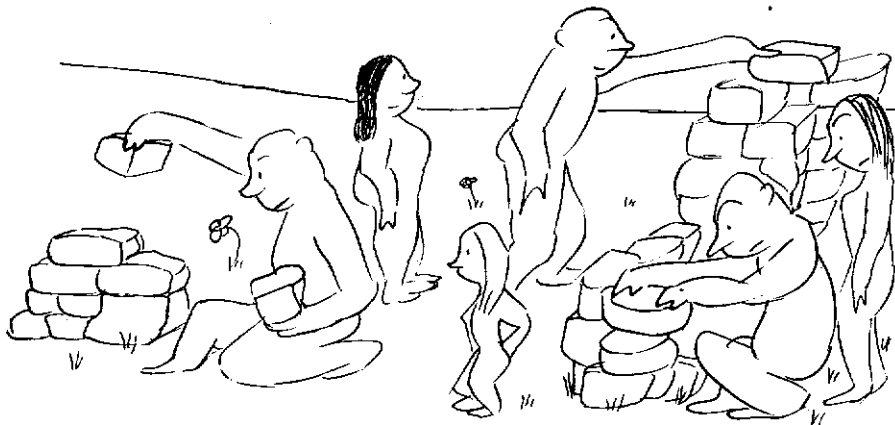
DOGS CAME OUT OF THEIR EXILE



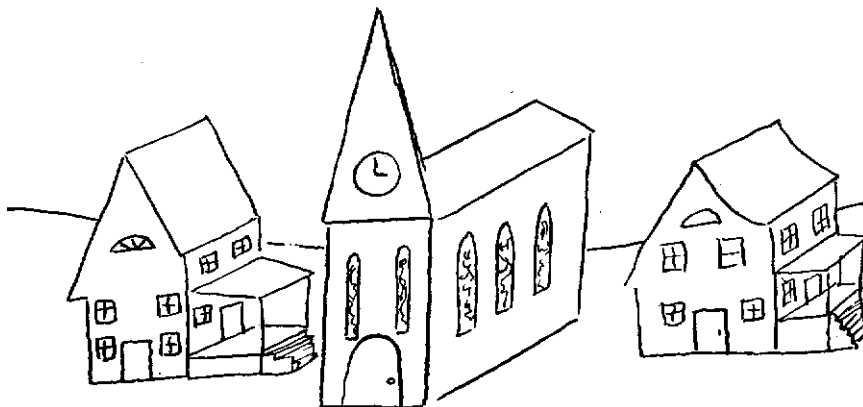
THE YOUNG MAN DISCOVERED, BY PUTTING ONE
STONE UPON ANOTHER, HOW TO BUILD A SHELTER



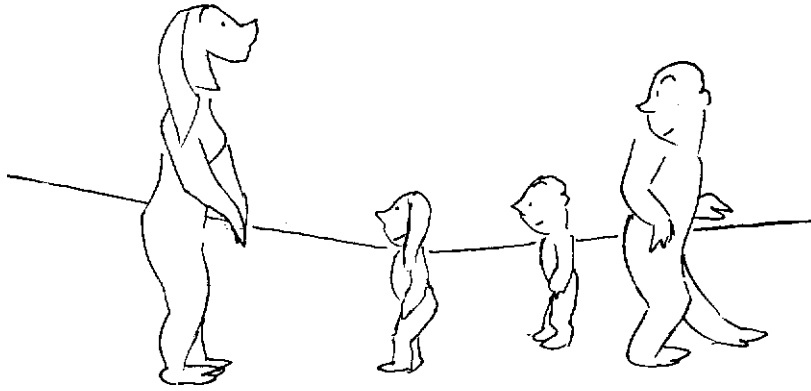
PRETTY SOON EVERYBODY WAS BUILDING SHELTERS



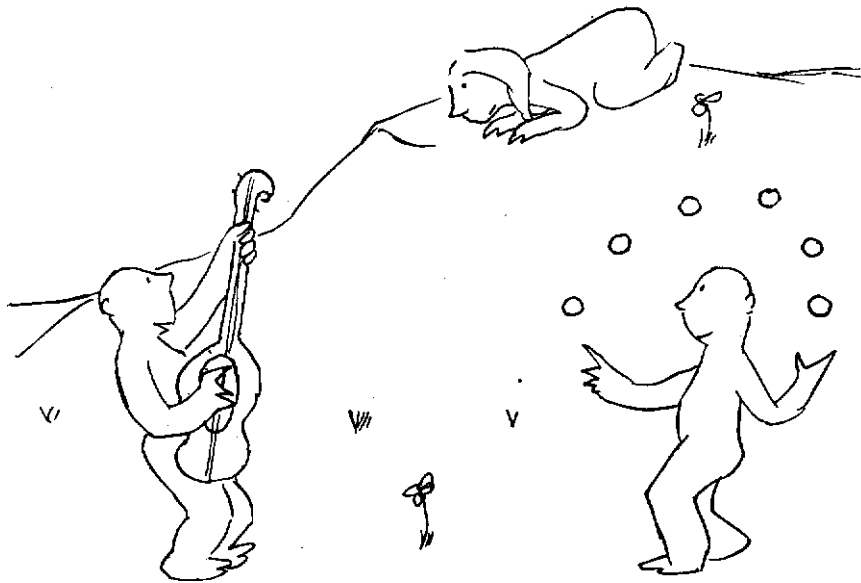
TOWNS, CITIES, AND VILLAGES SPRANG UP



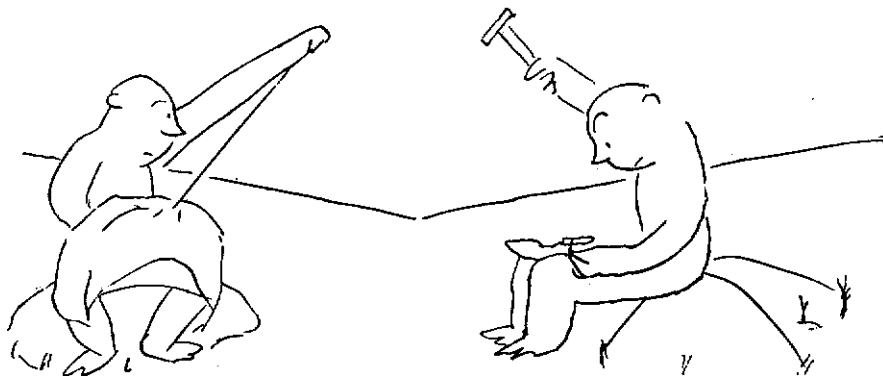
SONG CAME BACK INTO THE WORLD



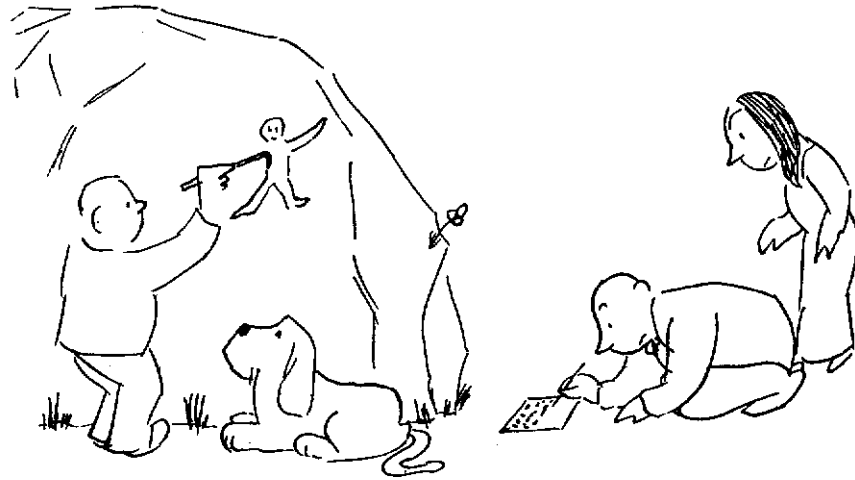
AND TROUBADOURS AND JUGGLERS



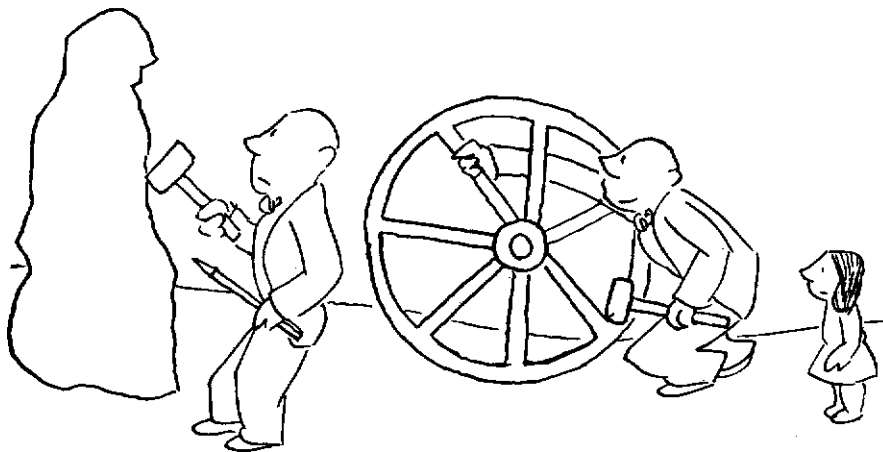
AND TAILORS AND COBBLERS



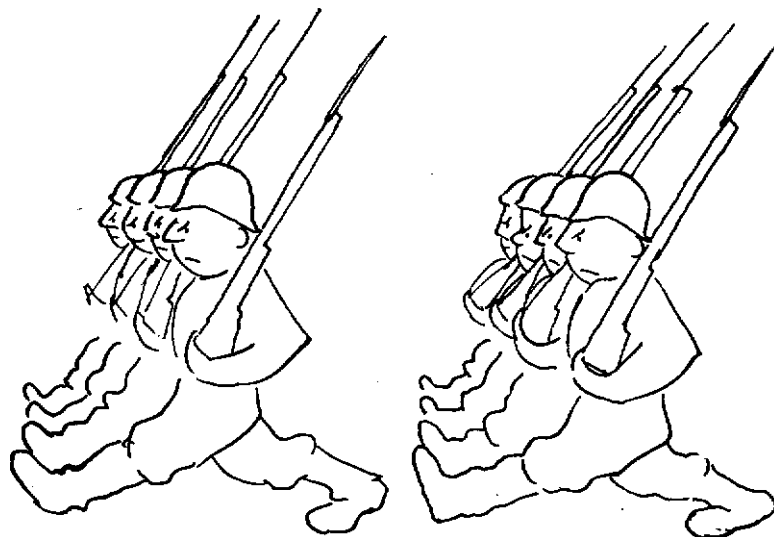
AND PAINTERS AND POETS

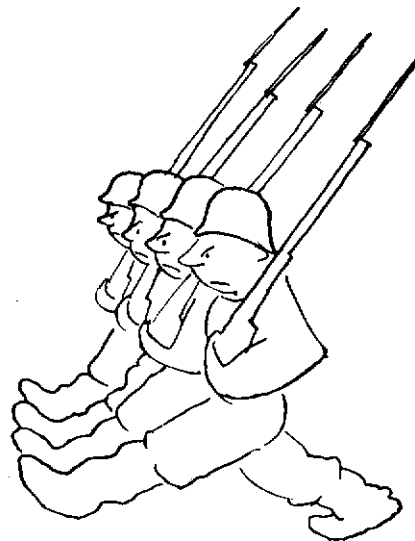
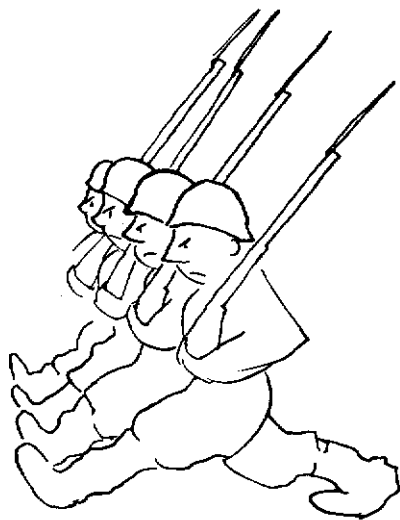
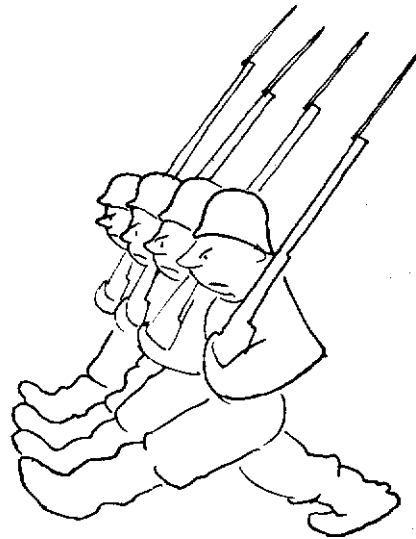
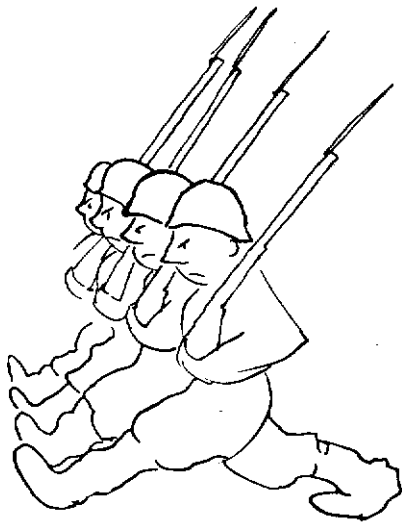
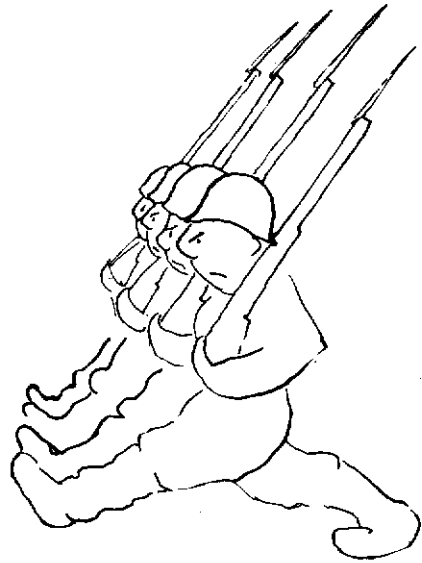
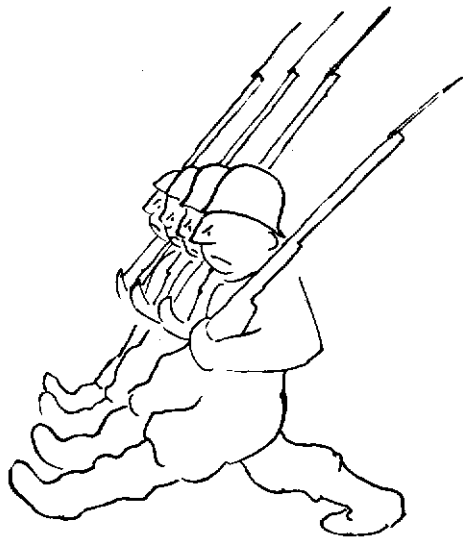


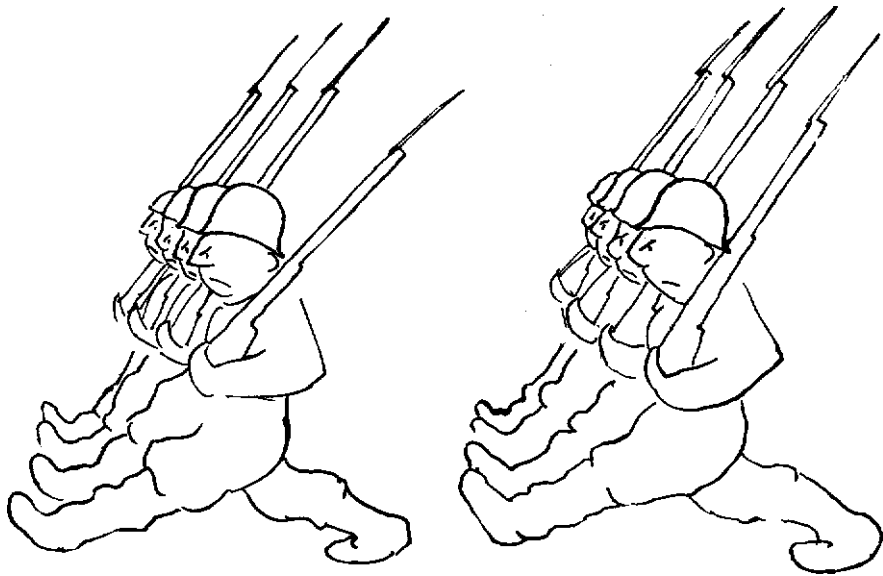
AND SCULPTORS AND WHEELWRIGHTS



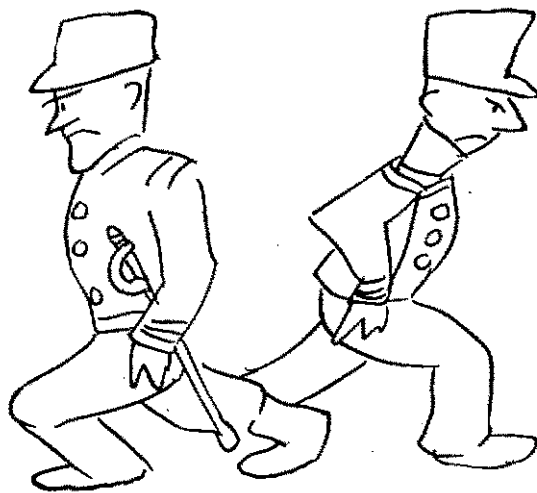
AND SOLDIERS



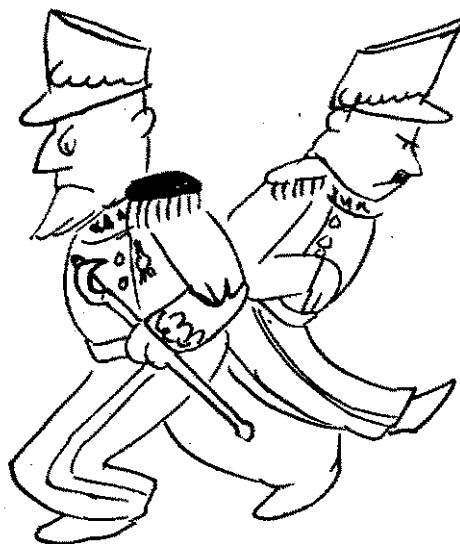




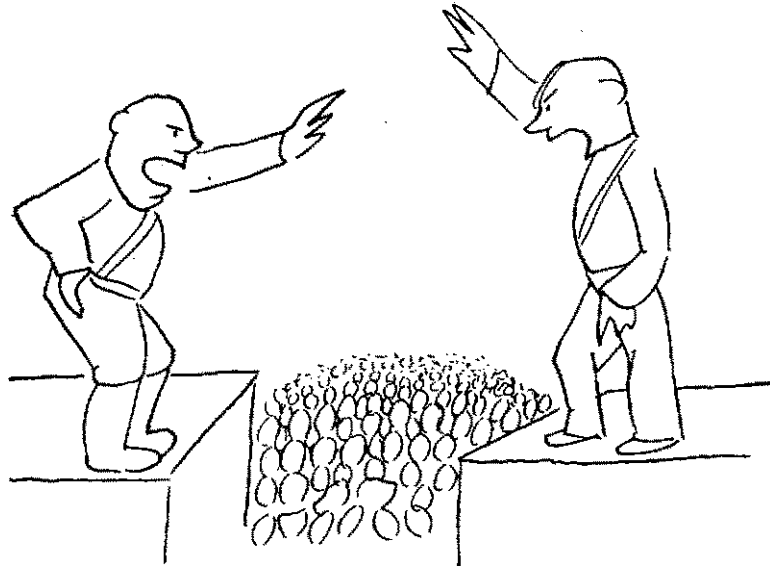
AND LIEUTENANTS AND CAPTAINS



AND GENERALS AND MAJOR-GENERALS



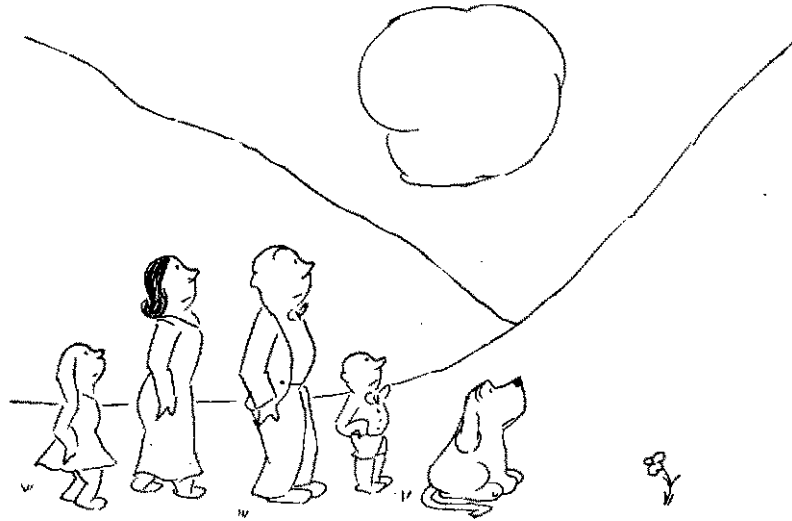
AND LIBERATORS



SOME PEOPLE WENT ONE PLACE TO LIVE,
AND SOME ANOTHER



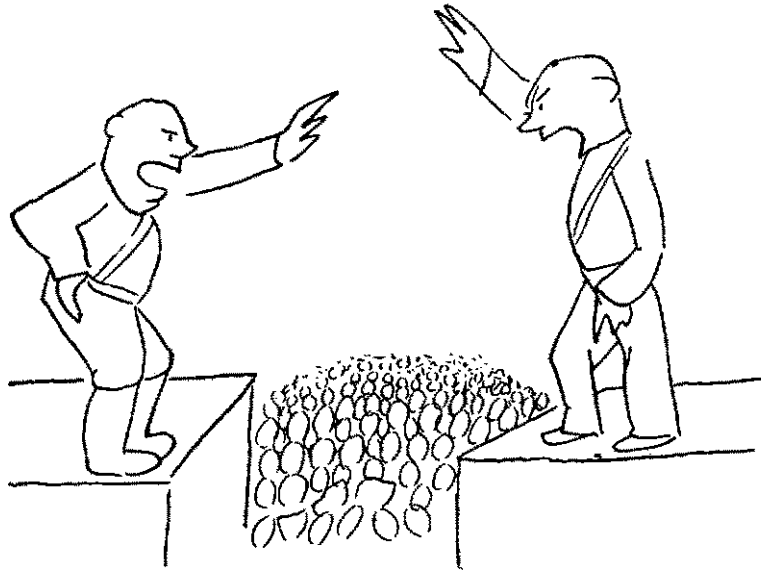
BEFORE LONG, THOSE WHO WENT TO LIVE IN THE VALLEYS
WISHED THEY HAD GONE TO LIVE IN THE HILLS



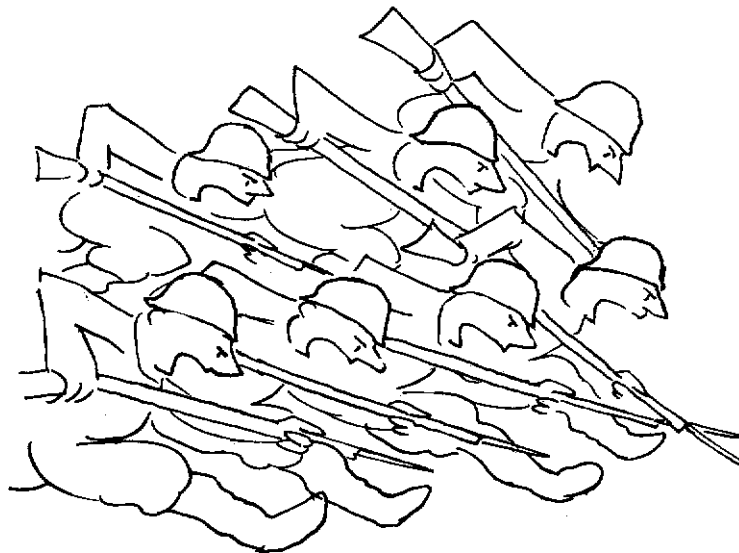
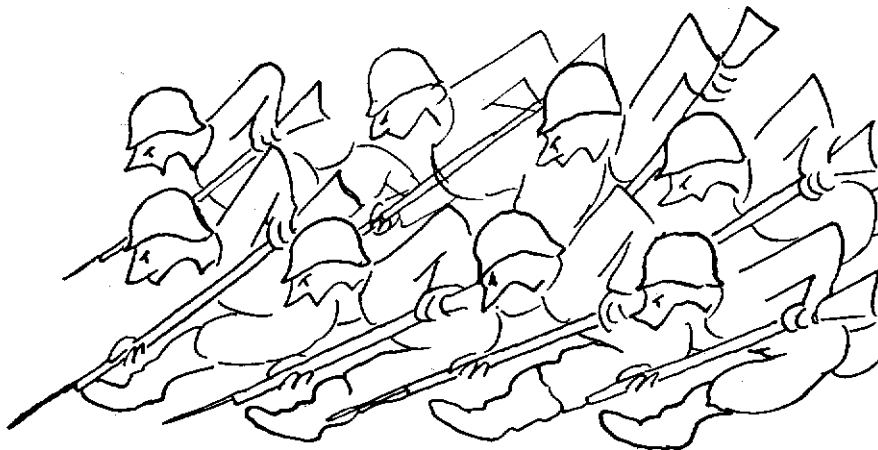
AND THOSE WHO HAD GONE TO LIVE IN THE HILLS
WISHED THEY HAD GONE TO LIVE IN THE VALLEYS

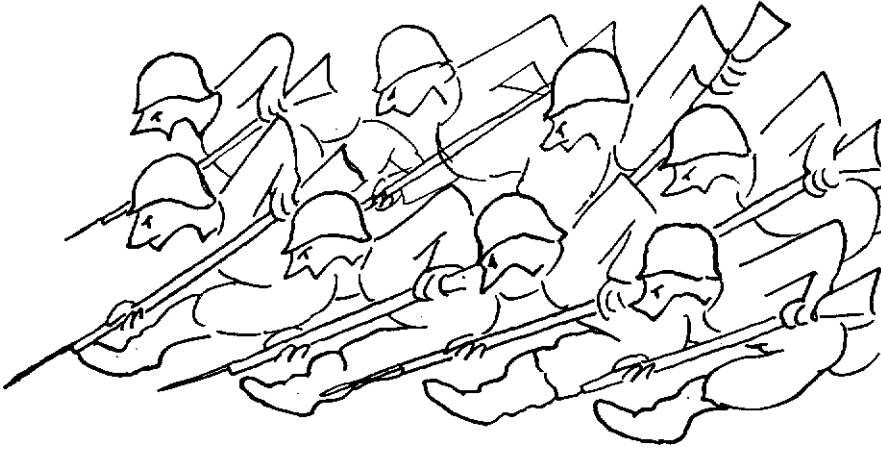


THE LIBERATORS, UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF GOD,
SET FIRE TO THE DISCONTENT



SO PRESENTLY THE WORLD WAS AT WAR AGAIN





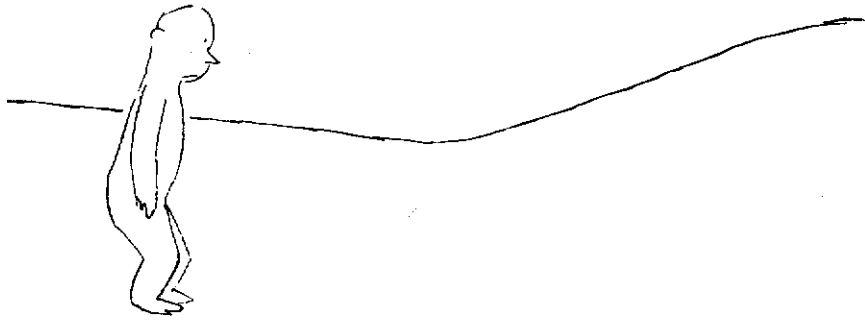
THIS TIME THE DESTRUCTION WAS SO COMPLETE...



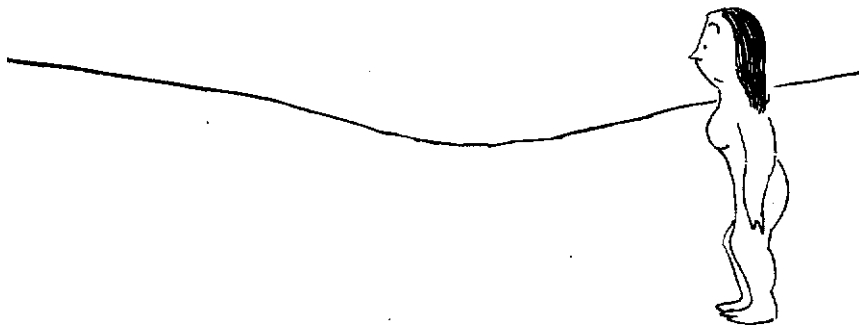
THAT NOTHING AT ALL WAS LEFT IN THE WORLD



EXCEPT ONE MAN



AND ONE WOMAN



AND ONE FLOWER



END