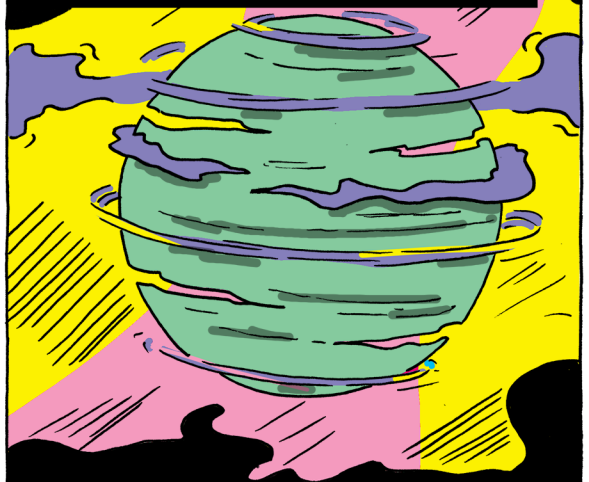


THE PLANET WAS FORMED OF COSMIC PARTICLES.



AND IT HAS BEEN CHANGING EVER SINCE THE ASSORTED GASES AND DUSTS COALESCED...



...IN THE GRAVITATIONAL POLKA THAT SHAPED IT.

EVENTUALLY FLORA AND FAUNA APPEARED AS PART OF THAT CHANGE-PROCESS.



AND IN TIME, THAT CHANGE, THAT PROCESS, LED TO US!



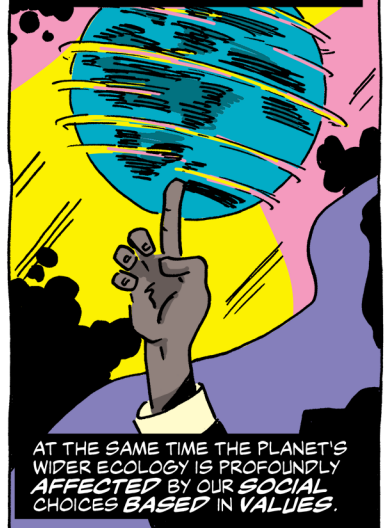
AS WE HUMANS DEVELOPED SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS, OUR INFLUENCE OVER THAT PROCESS CAME TO GROW.

MURRAY BOOKCHIN CALLED THIS 'SECOND NATURE' HE EXPLAINS:



SECOND NATURE CONTAINS BOTH THE DANGER OF TEARING DOWN THE BIOSPHERE AND, GIVEN A FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF HUMANITY TOWARD AN ECOLOGICAL SOCIETY, THE CAPACITY TO PROVIDE AN ENTIRELY NEW ECOLOGICAL DISPENSATION.

HUMANS ARE PART OF NATURE, THROUGH AND THROUGH, WHILE...

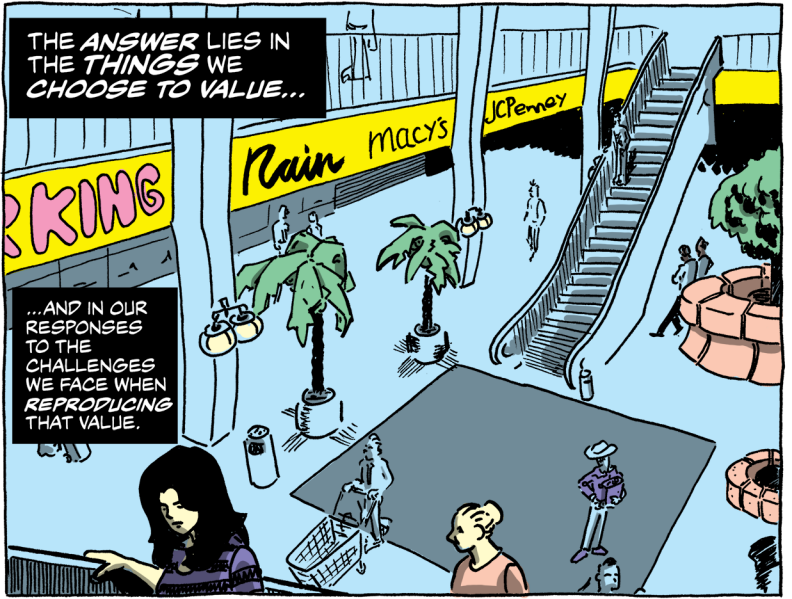


AT THE SAME TIME THE PLANET'S WIDER ECOLOGY IS PROFOUNDLY AFFECTED BY OUR SOCIAL CHOICES BASED IN VALUES.

IF HUMANS PLAY A BIG PART IN NATURE, WHY DO WE ALWAYS SEEM AT ODDS WITH IT?

THE ANSWER LIES IN THE THINGS WE CHOOSE TO VALUE...

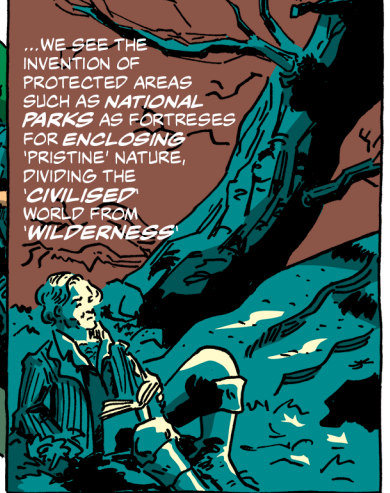
...AND IN OUR RESPONSES TO THE CHALLENGES WE FACE WHEN REPRODUCING THAT VALUE.



FOR MOST OF THE INTELLECTUAL HISTORY OF THE WEST, HUMANITY HAS BEEN PLACED AT A REMOVE FROM THE 'NATURAL' WORLD.

AS BEING IN CONFLICT WITH OUR SURROUNDINGS OR 'HUSBANDING' SCARCE NATURAL RESOURCES FOR OUR OWN SURVIVAL.

EVEN IN THE NINETEENTH CENTURY, WITH INTELLECTUALS APPEARING TO REVERE NATURE...



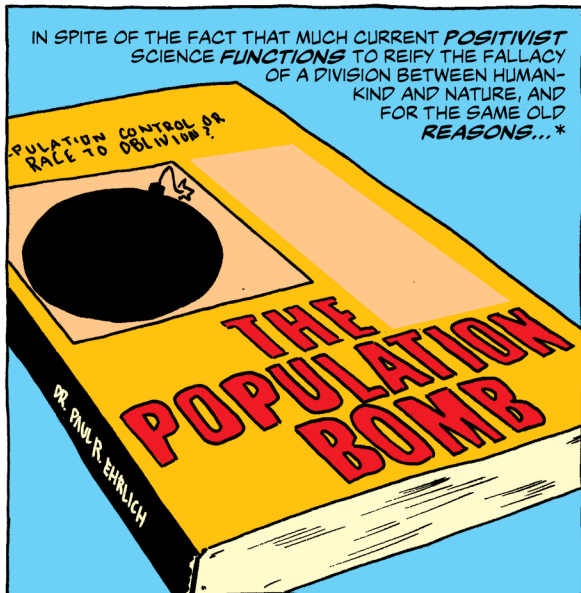
...WE SEE THE INVENTION OF PROTECTED AREAS SUCH AS NATIONAL PARKS AS FORTRESSES FOR ENCLOSING 'PRISTINE' NATURE, DIVIDING THE 'CIVILISED' WORLD FROM 'WILDERNESS'

WHEN MODERN EMPIRES STARTED TO FORM, THIS NARRATIVE OF MAN DIVIDED FROM NATURE BECAME VERY USEFUL...

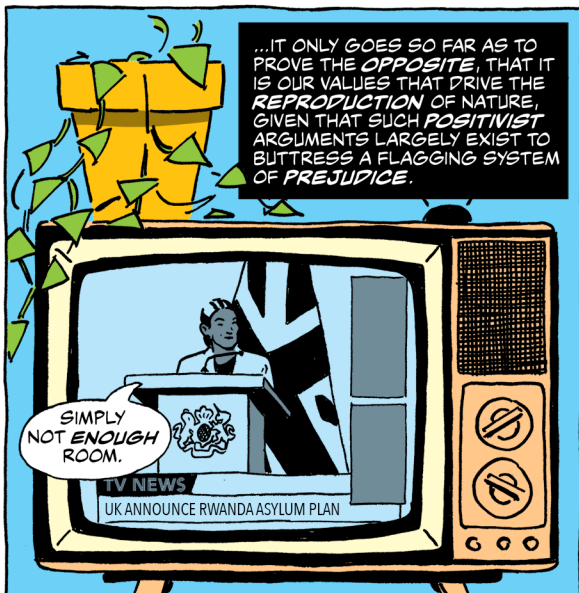
...HELPING TO INVENT AND SOLIDIFY PREJUDICES NECESSARY TO THE SUCCESS OF ITS ENDEAVOURS.

THIS NARRATIVE CONTINUES TO BE REPLICATED TO THIS DAY, IN THE RHETORIC AND POLICIES OF LEADERS AND DECISION-MAKERS.





IN SPITE OF THE FACT THAT MUCH CURRENT **POSITIVIST** SCIENCE **FUNCTIONS** TO REIFY THE FALLACY OF A DIVISION BETWEEN HUMAN-KIND AND NATURE, AND FOR THE SAME OLD **REASONS...***



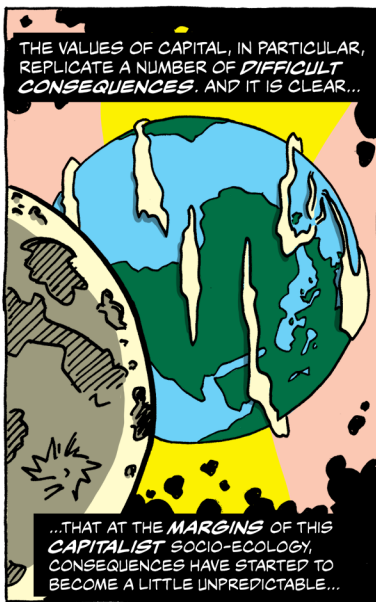
...IT ONLY GOES SO FAR AS TO PROVE THE **OPPOSITE**, THAT IT IS OUR VALUES THAT DRIVE THE **REPRODUCTION** OF NATURE, GIVEN THAT SUCH **POSITIVIST** ARGUMENTS LARGELY EXIST TO BUTTRESS A FLAGGING SYSTEM OF **PREJUDICE**.

SIMPLY NOT ENOUGH ROOM.

TV NEWS
UK ANNOUNCE RWANDA ASYLUM PLAN

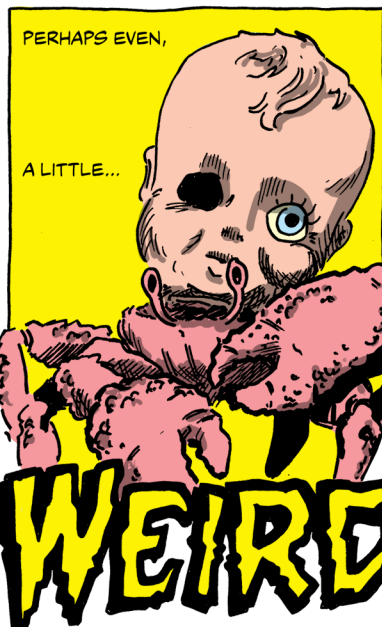


IT IS **STILL** VALUES THAT SHAPE THE SOCIO-ECOLOGY OF THE WORLD IN WHICH WE **LIVE**, EVEN IF THOSE ARE THE TYPE OF **ECONOMIC** VALUES PUSHED UNDER THE RULE OF **CAPITAL**.



THE VALUES OF **CAPITAL**, IN PARTICULAR, REPLICATE A NUMBER OF **DIFFICULT CONSEQUENCES**. AND IT IS CLEAR...

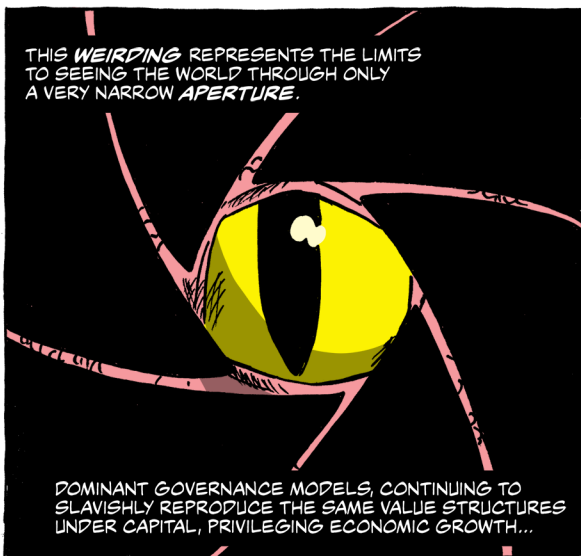
...THAT AT THE **MARGINS** OF THIS **CAPITALIST** SOCIO-ECOLOGY, CONSEQUENCES HAVE STARTED TO BECOME A LITTLE UNPREDICTABLE...



PERHAPS EVEN,

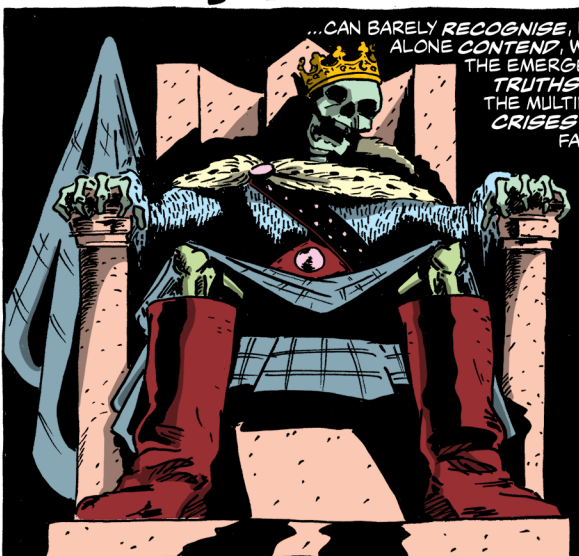
A LITTLE...

WEIRD



THIS **WEIRDING** REPRESENTS THE LIMITS TO SEEING THE WORLD THROUGH ONLY A VERY NARROW **APERTURE**.

DOMINANT GOVERNANCE MODELS, CONTINUING TO SLAVISHLY REPRODUCE THE SAME VALUE STRUCTURES UNDER **CAPITAL**, PRIVILEGING ECONOMIC GROWTH...



...CAN BARELY **RECOGNISE**, LET ALONE **CONTENT**, WITH THE **EMERGENT TRUTHS** OF THE MULTIPLE **CRISES** WE FACE.

* 'SAME OLD REASONS' INCLUDE, BUT ARE NOT EXCLUSIVE TO, RACISM, SEXISM, CLASSISM, WHITE SUPREMACIST PREJUDICES, IMPERIAL MINDSET, LIBERALISM, NEOLIBERALISM, CONSERVATISM, NEOCONSERVATISM, BEST INTENTIONS, THE LOGIC OF THE BOSSES, POOR IMAGINATION, AND GOOD OL' FASHIONED CAREERISM.

WE SEE FROM ATTEMPTS TO ADDRESS COMPOUNDED **CRISES** LIKE CLIMATE CHANGE OR GLOBAL PANDEMIC, THAT A **TOP-DOWN, ONE-SIZE-FITS-ALL** APPROACH TO POLICY IS DOOMED TO FAIL ALL BUT THE MOST INSULATED FROM **HARM**. OFTEN OFFERING...

...LITTLE MORE THEN GREATER CONTROL AND **TECHNICAL** MANAGEMENT OVER SOCIAL LIFE AND NATURE FOR WHATEVER INSTITUTION OR **INTEREST** IS BACKING THE PROPOSAL. THE POLICY NARRATIVES THAT JUSTIFY THESE **APPROACHES** FORM A LARGE PART OF THE PROBLEM, PRIVILEGING...

...FORMS OF **KNOWLEDGE** AND AUTHORITY THAT OBSCURE THE ROOT CAUSES AND THE INHERENT **CONTRADICTIONS** OF A GLOBAL ECONOMIC SYSTEM **ORIENTED** TOWARDS GROWTH AT ALL COSTS.



BY EXCLUDING DISSIDENTING VOICES AND HIDING UNEVEN POWER RELATIONS, THIS POLITICS **CLOSES** SPACE FOR DEBATE AND CREATES POLICY **'LOCK-INS'** THAT **RESEMBLE** LITTLE MORE THAN A CEREMONIAL **DANSE MACABRE** BETWEEN BIG BUSINESS AND OUR COLLECTIVE **DEMISE**.



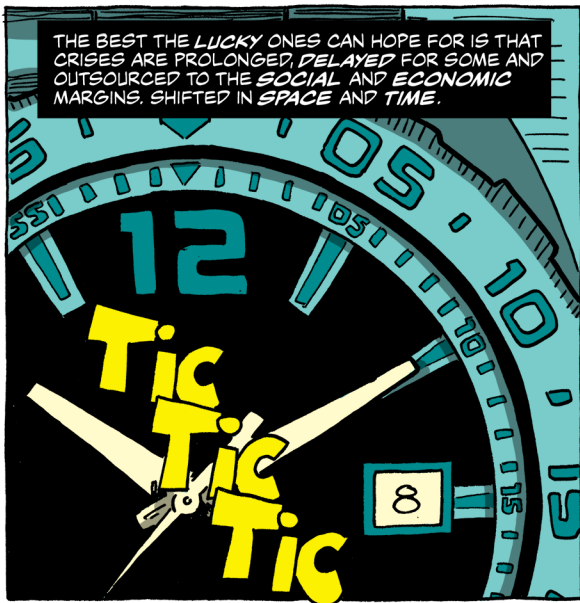
THE SO-CALLED **'GLOBAL LEADERSHIP'** IS NECESSARILY LIMITED TO A NARROW COURSE OF ACTION, AS IF IT WERE THE **ONLY OPTION**.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC AND BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP.

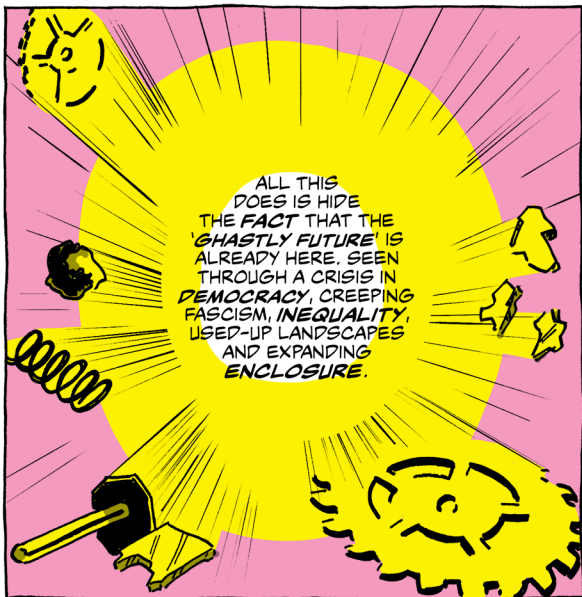


THIS AMOUNTS TO A **FORECLOSURE** ON THE SOCIAL IMAGINATION, CONSTRAINING POSSIBILITIES FOR PEOPLE TO ACT, **CREATE** AND FLOURISH IN A CHANGED AND CHANGING **WORLD**.

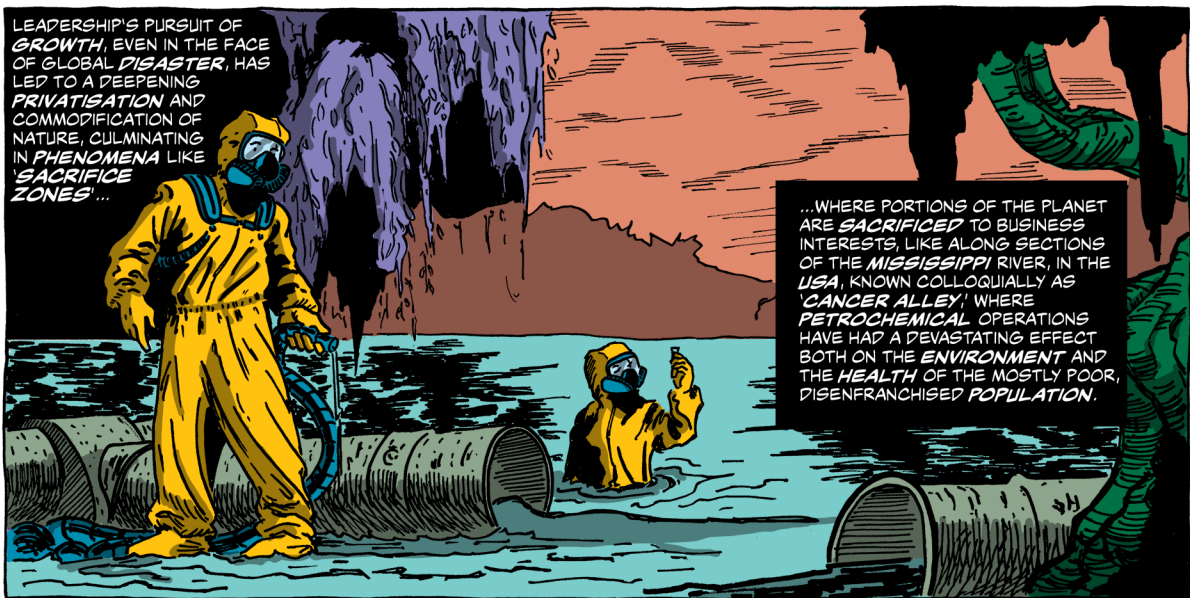
THE BEST THE *LUCKY* ONES CAN HOPE FOR IS THAT
CRISES ARE PROLONGED, *DELAYED* FOR SOME AND
OUTSOURCED TO THE *SOCIAL* AND *ECONOMIC*
MARGINS, SHIFTED IN *SPACE* AND *TIME*.



ALL THIS
DOES IS HIDE
THE FACT THAT THE
GHASTLY FUTURE IS
ALREADY HERE. SEEN
THROUGH A CRISIS IN
DEMOCRACY, *CREEPING*
FASCISM, *INEQUALITY*,
USED-UP LANDSCAPES
AND *EXPANDING*
ENCLOSURE.

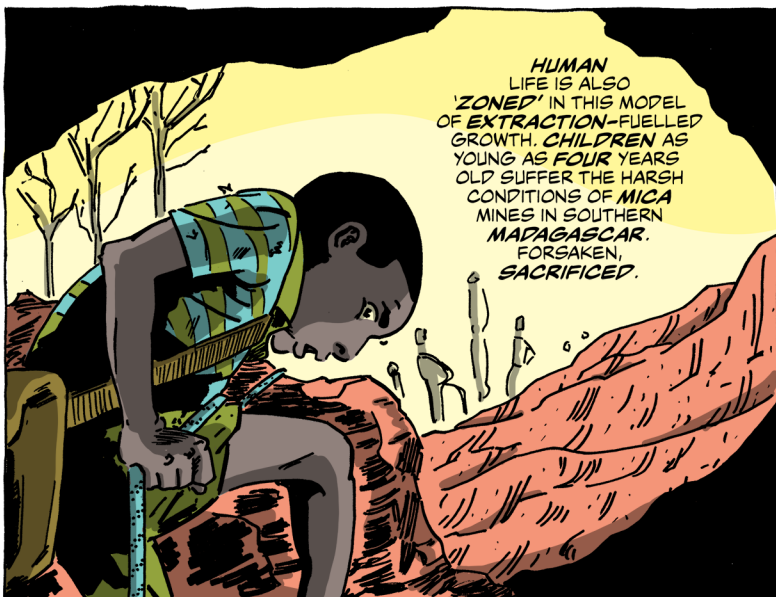


LEADERSHIP'S PURSUIT OF
GROWTH, EVEN IN THE FACE
OF *GLOBAL DISASTER*, HAS
LED TO A DEEPENING
PRIVATISATION AND
COMMODIFICATION OF
NATURE, CULMINATING
IN PHENOMENA LIKE
'SACRIFICE ZONES'...



...WHERE PORTIONS OF THE PLANET
ARE *SACRIFICED* TO BUSINESS
INTERESTS, LIKE ALONG SECTIONS
OF THE *MISSISSIPPI RIVER*, IN THE
USA, KNOWN COLLOQUIALLY AS
'CANCER ALLEY', WHERE
PETROCHEMICAL OPERATIONS
HAVE HAD A DEVASTATING EFFECT
BOTH ON THE *ENVIRONMENT* AND
THE *HEALTH* OF THE MOSTLY POOR,
DISENFRANCHISED POPULATION.

HUMAN
LIFE IS ALSO
'ZONED' IN THIS MODEL
OF *EXTRACTION-FUELED*
GROWTH. *CHILDREN* AS
YOUNG AS *FOUR YEARS*
OLD SUFFER THE HARSH
CONDITIONS OF *MICA*
MINES IN SOUTHERN
MADAGASCAR.
FORSAKEN,
SACRIFICED.



VALUE SYSTEMS ARE
A PRODUCT OF THE
HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS
AND *INSTITUTIONS* THAT
SUPPORT THEM. *VALUE*
SYSTEMS THEREFORE
HAVE JUST AS MUCH
POTENTIALITY AS THERE
ARE WAYS TO *ORGANISE*
HUMAN SOCIETY.

GOVERNMENTS,
CORPORATIONS AND
STATES ARE *NOT* THE
ONLY WAY TO *ORGANISE*
AND SO *PROFIT*, *CAPITAL*
AND *GROWTH* ARE *NOT*
THE ONLY *FORMS*
OF *VALUE*.

BUT DO PEOPLE TAKE OTHER FORMS OF VALUE SERIOUSLY? DO THEY PRESENT AN ALTERNATIVE?

YES!

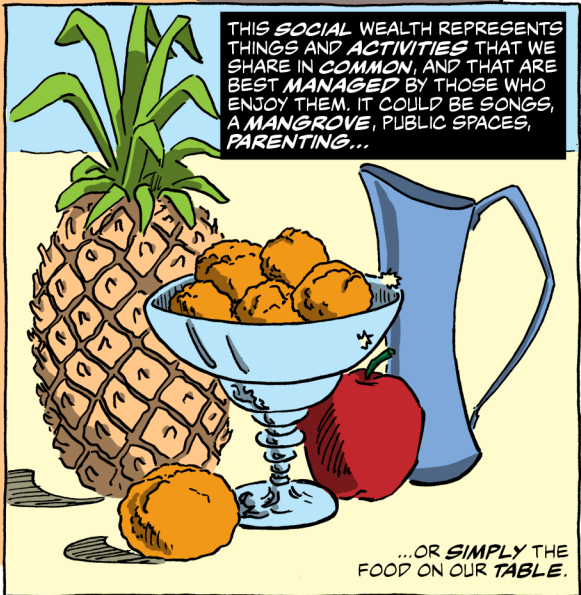


ALL ONE HAS TO DO IS LOOK TO THE COMMONS, OR MORE SPECIFICALLY THOSE 'COMMONING' WHERE THERE ARE MANY EMPHATIC EMPIRICAL EXAMPLES.

COMMONING, THE 'DOING' OF THE COMMONS, INVOLVES RELATIONSHIPS, PRACTICES, AND VALUES BY WHICH FOLKS CREATE, GOVERN, REPRODUCE AND DEFEND RESOURCES AND OTHER FORMS OF SOCIAL WEALTH.



THIS SOCIAL WEALTH REPRESENTS THINGS AND ACTIVITIES THAT WE SHARE IN COMMON, AND THAT ARE BEST MANAGED BY THOSE WHO ENJOY THEM. IT COULD BE SONGS, A MANGROVE, PUBLIC SPACES, PARENTING...

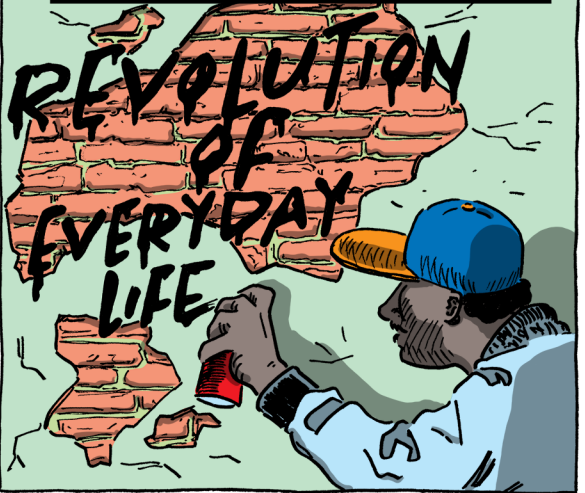


...OR SIMPLY THE FOOD ON OUR TABLE.

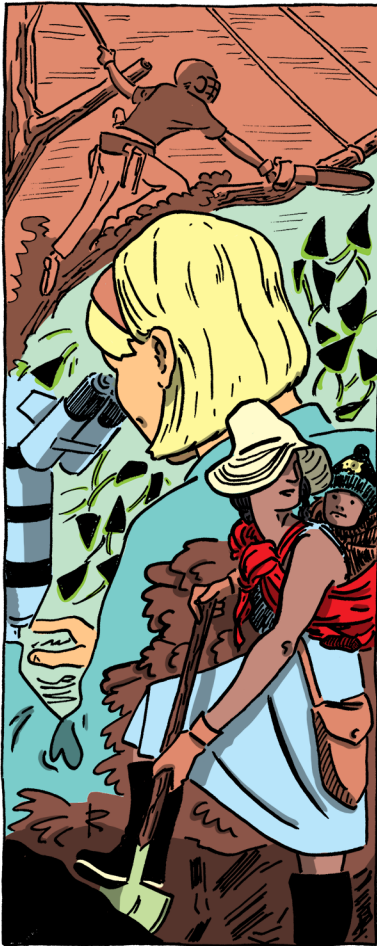
UNLIKE 'GLOBAL LEADERS' AND THE POLICY APPROACHES THEY ENDORSE, **COMMONERS** ARE RESPONDING TO THE **STRUGGLES** OF OUR TIME.



RESTRUCTURING **WORK**, **MARKETS**, **HOUSING**, **CARE**, **PRODUCTION OF KNOWLEDGE** AND **GOODS**. ENACTING THAT **OFF-DREAMT** VISION OF A...

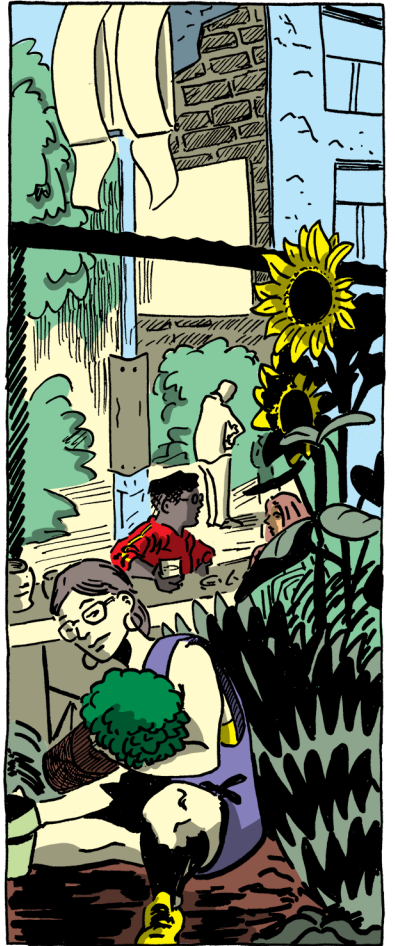


ORGANISING MORE **ECO-LOGICAL RELATIONSHIPS** AMONG **SOCIETY**, **TECHNOLOGY** AND THE **ENVIRONMENT**. BRINGING FORTH **FUTURES** IN THE PRESENT BASED ON **LIVING**, **THINKING** AND **ACTING** IN **MULTI-SPECIES** WORLDS.



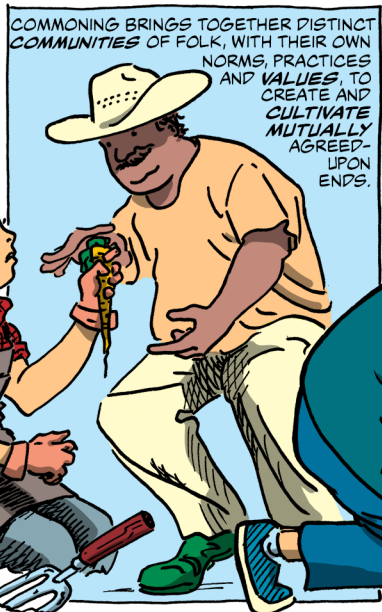
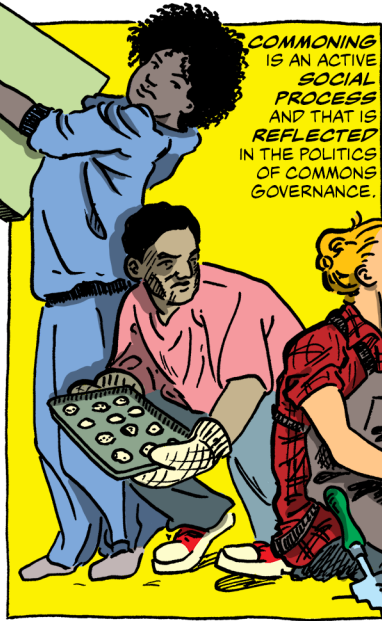
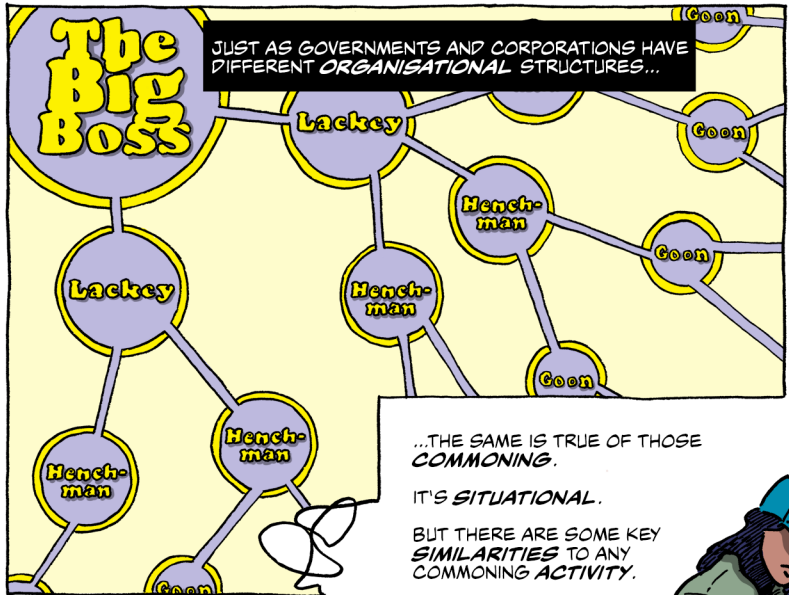
EXAMPLES OF **COMMONING** CAN BE DRAWN FROM **AGROECOLOGY**, **PERMACULTURE** AND **FORESTRY**, AIMING TO **CREATE** AND **DEFEND** NEW **FOOD PRODUCTION** AND **DISTRIBUTION REGIMES** THAT RUN **COUNTER** TO MARKET VALUES.

THE GREATEST POTENTIAL IN **COMMONING** LIES IN **COMMONERS'** ABILITY TO PERFORM CHANGE '**FROM BELOW**', TO BUILD INFRASTRUCTURE THAT **RESPONDS** TO **COMMUNITY NEEDS** AND RUNS **COUNTER** TO **DOMINANT POWER STRUCTURES**.



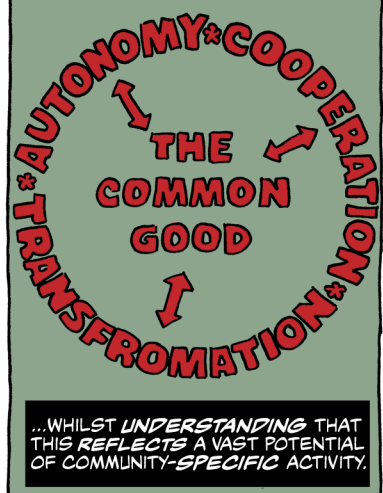
COMMONING PRODUCES POWERFUL, VALUE-DRIVEN **COUNTER NARRATIVES**, BY **DEMONSTRATING** THROUGH **PRACTICE** THAT OTHER **WAYS** AND **WORLDS** ARE POSSIBLE.

BUT HOW IS COMMONING ORGANISED?



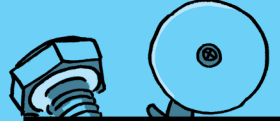
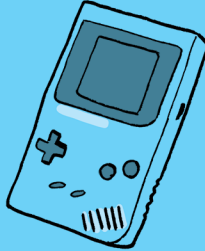
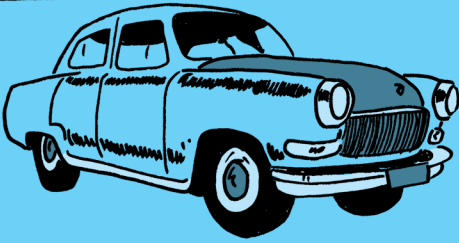
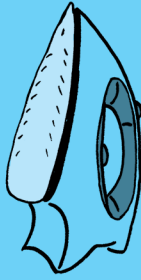
INDIVIDUAL AND COMMUNAL AUTONOMY ARE PRIME FACTORS IN COMMONING ORGANISATION AND GOVERNANCE, AND ARE IN ESSENCE UNSCALABLE. THOSE TWO FACTORS MEAN THAT IT IS VERY UNLIKELY THAT COMMONING WOULD REPLICATE THE TYPES OF ORGANISATIONAL MODELS WE HAVE BECOME FAMILIAR WITH IN BUSINESS OR AT WORK.

SO IT IS BEST TO SEE COMMONING AS A PRACTICE CONCERNED WITH SOCIAL GOOD...



NOTA BENE: MANY COMMONERS COME FROM ANARCHIST AND AUTONOMIST MARXIST TRADITIONS.

WHAT IS THE COMMONS?



WE ARE ENCOURAGED TO THINK OF THE RESOURCES AROUND US AS INERT 'THINGS' EXISTING APART FROM US, ONLY TO BE OWNED OR USED TO SATISFY NEEDS.



BUT IF WE FORGET **MAINSTREAM** ECONOMIC APPROACHES AND SEE RESOURCES **BEYOND** THIS CLASSIFICATION AS MERE 'PROPERTY,' AND CONSIDER RESOURCES INSTEAD IN TERMS OF **TANGIBLE** AND **INTANGIBLE 'SOCIAL GOODS'**, WE BEGIN TO SEE AN OUTLINE OF THE COMMONS APPEAR.

BECAUSE IN FIGURING RESOURCES AS SOCIAL GOODS THEY BECOME INTRINSICALLY LINKED TO SOCIAL **RELATIONSHIPS** AND TO SOCIAL **VALUE**.

SO HERE WE CAN SAY THAT THE COMMONS REFERS TO A RESOURCE, FORM OF VALUE OR SOCIAL GOOD AT THE CENTRE OF **COMMONING ACTIVITY**.

AND WE FIND THE COMMONS EVERYWHERE, OFTEN MAKING UP FOR THE SHORTFALLS IN **CARE** THAT MARK TRADITIONAL GOVERNANCE MODELS.



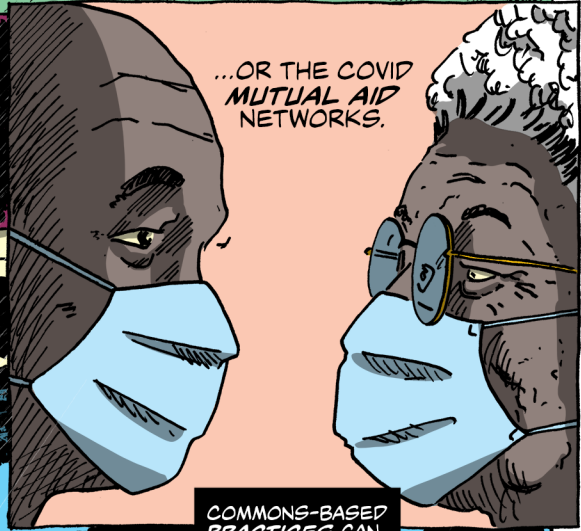
COMMONING DOESN'T EXIST IN ISOLATION...

...IN FACT, THE TANGIBILITY OF THE EFFECT OF THE COMMONS IS OFTEN FOUND IN THE WORK THAT GOVERNMENTS AND CORPORATIONS CAN'T OR WON'T DO.



THINK OF THE 'DISASTER COMMUNISMS' THAT AROSE AFTER THE EFFECTS OF HURRICANE KATRINA WERE FELT IN NEW ORLEANS...

...OR THE COVID MUTUAL AID NETWORKS.

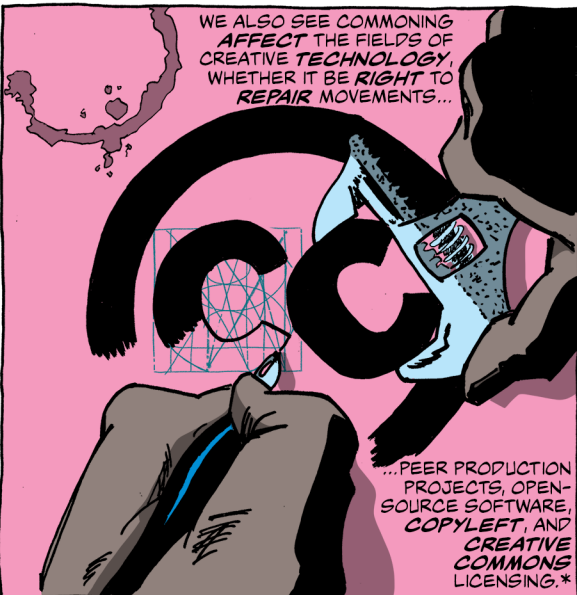


COMMONS-BASED PRACTICES CAN LEAD IN SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION.



AN EXAMPLE IS FOUND IN THE EXPERIMENTAL COOPERATIVE ECONOMY DEVELOPED BY COOPERATION JACKSON.

WE ALSO SEE COMMONING AFFECT THE FIELDS OF CREATIVE TECHNOLOGY, WHETHER IT BE RIGHT TO REPAIR MOVEMENTS...



...PEER PRODUCTION PROJECTS, OPEN-SOURCE SOFTWARE, COPYLEFT, AND CREATIVE COMMONS LICENSING.*

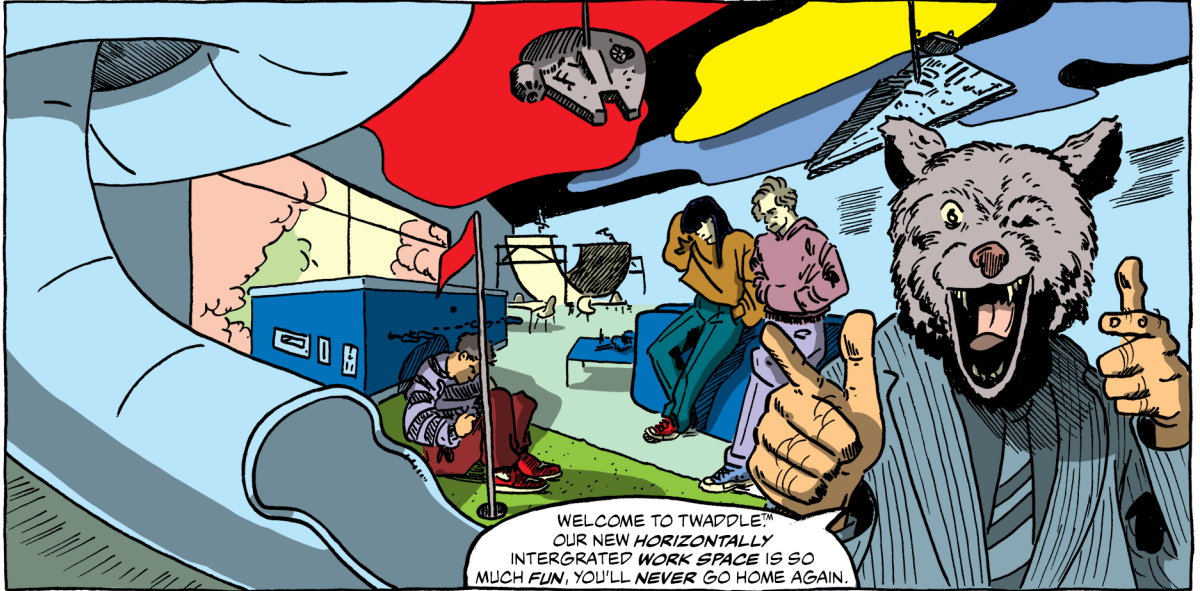
THE COMMONS IS MANIFEST THROUGH THE STRUGGLES OF PEOPLE TO REPLICATE THEIR OWN WAY OF LIFE AND FORMS OF VALUE

*IN FACT, THIS VERY COMIC IS CREATED UNDER A CREATIVE COMMONS LICENCE, AND YOUR FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD CARTOONIST [ME!] ENCOURAGES YOU TO FREELY SHARE THIS WORK WITH ANYBODY AND EVERYBODY... WELL, WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR? GET SHARING!

COMMONING, WITH ITS INNOVATIVE PRACTICES, **MOVEMENTS**, NETWORKS AND TECHNOLOGIES, IS **RAPIDLY** DIFFUSING THROUGH THE WIDER ECONOMY, THOUGH THIS IS **NOT** NECESSARILY A CAUSE FOR CELEBRATION AMONGST COMMONERS.

DIFFICULT TENSIONS AND **CONTRADICTIONS** HAVE ARISEN IN THE COMMON **STRUGGLE** TO RETAIN **AUTONOMY**. AS THE BUSINESS WORLD ADOPTS COMMONS-BASED PEER PRODUCTION, ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURES AND FREE SOFTWARE...

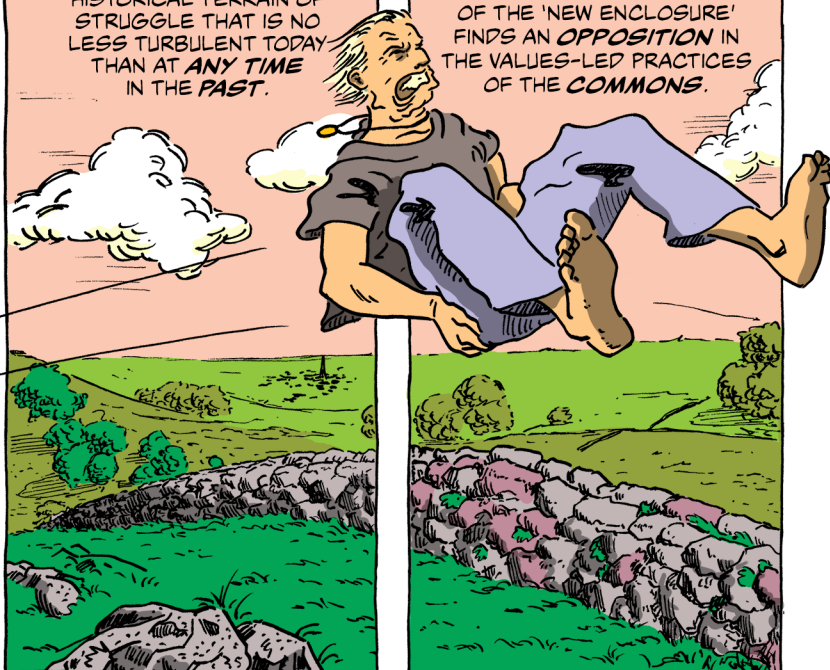
...BUT WITH LITTLE REGARD FOR THE SOCIAL VALUE THESE COMMON GOODS WERE CREATED TO **REPLICATE** AND **DEFEND**; AN UNDERSTANDABLE, EVEN ADVISABLE, **SCEPTICISM** REMAINS ABOUT MAINSTREAM ECONOMIC CROSSOVER, OR **HYBRIDISATION**, WITH THE COMMONS.



ENCLOSURE IS NO SINGULAR **EVENT**, LIKE FOR EXAMPLE, THE **DISPOSSESSION** OF THE ENGLISH PEASANTRY IN THE **13TH** CENTURY. ENCLOSURE IS A **VAST** CONTINUITY, AN ONGOING AND FUNDAMENTAL **PROCESS** THAT UNDERGIRDS COLONIALISM, IMPERIALISM, **GLOBALISATION** AND ECONOMIC 'GROWTH'.

IT IS A SEDIMENTED AND **PRIMARY** LOGIC IN THE **EXERCISE** OF FORMS OF POWER THAT SEEK DOMINATION AND CONTROL OVER SOCIETY AND NATURE. **TENSIONS** BETWEEN **COMMONING** AND ENCLOSURE FORM A HISTORICAL TERRAIN OF STRUGGLE THAT IS NO LESS TURBULENT TODAY THAN AT **ANY TIME** IN THE **PAST**.

WHETHER IT BE ATTEMPTS TO **RE-FRAME** NATURE AS 'CAPITAL' AND BIOLOGICAL LIFE AS 'INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY' OR TO CLAIM THE SUN'S WARMTH AS A '**GREEN ASSET**' IN RHETORIC AROUND ENERGY TRANSITIONS, THIS **LOGIC** OF THE 'NEW ENCLOSURE' FINDS AN **OPPOSITION** IN THE VALUES-LED PRACTICES OF THE **COMMONS**.



AS WELL AS *REPLACING*, CHANGING AND SUPPLEMENTING THE *MATERIAL* NEEDS OF THE PRESENT, COMMONING ALSO CREATES AN *IMAGINATIVE SURPLUS* WHEN THINKING ABOUT THE FUTURE. IN ACCEPTING THAT THE REPRODUCTION OF *VALUE* PLAYS A LARGE ROLE IN THE FORMATION OF OUR WORLD, AND BY TAKING VARIOUS FORMS OF *VALUE SERIOUSLY*, COMMONING IS OPENING A GREAT VISTA OF POSSIBLE AND IMAGINED *FUTURES*. IN A VERY *REAL* SENSE THE POLITICAL ECOLOGY OF THE COMMONS IS A WORK OF *SCIENCE FICTION*, FOR IT IS BOTH A MEANS OF *AUTONOMY*, COOPERATION AND *TRANSFORMATION* IN THE PRESENT, AND A COMPULSION TO IMAGINE *DIFFERENTLY*.



CIAO FOR NOW!

FUTURE NATURES



**WRITTEN BY
HUFF & ZOCCO**

**ART BY
ZOCCO**



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