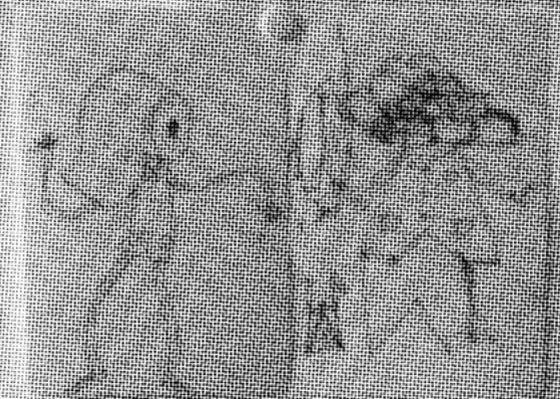
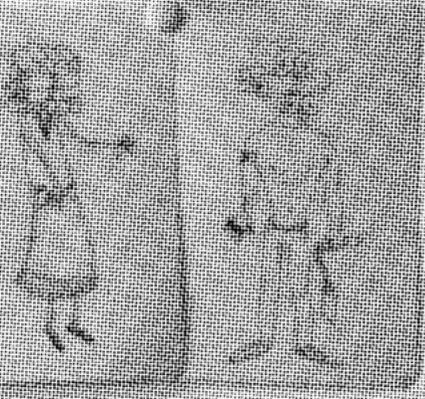


Toilet-paper-heads



Characters

Allreza Abbasy

Toilet-paper-heads

Concept and writing :

Alireza Abbasy

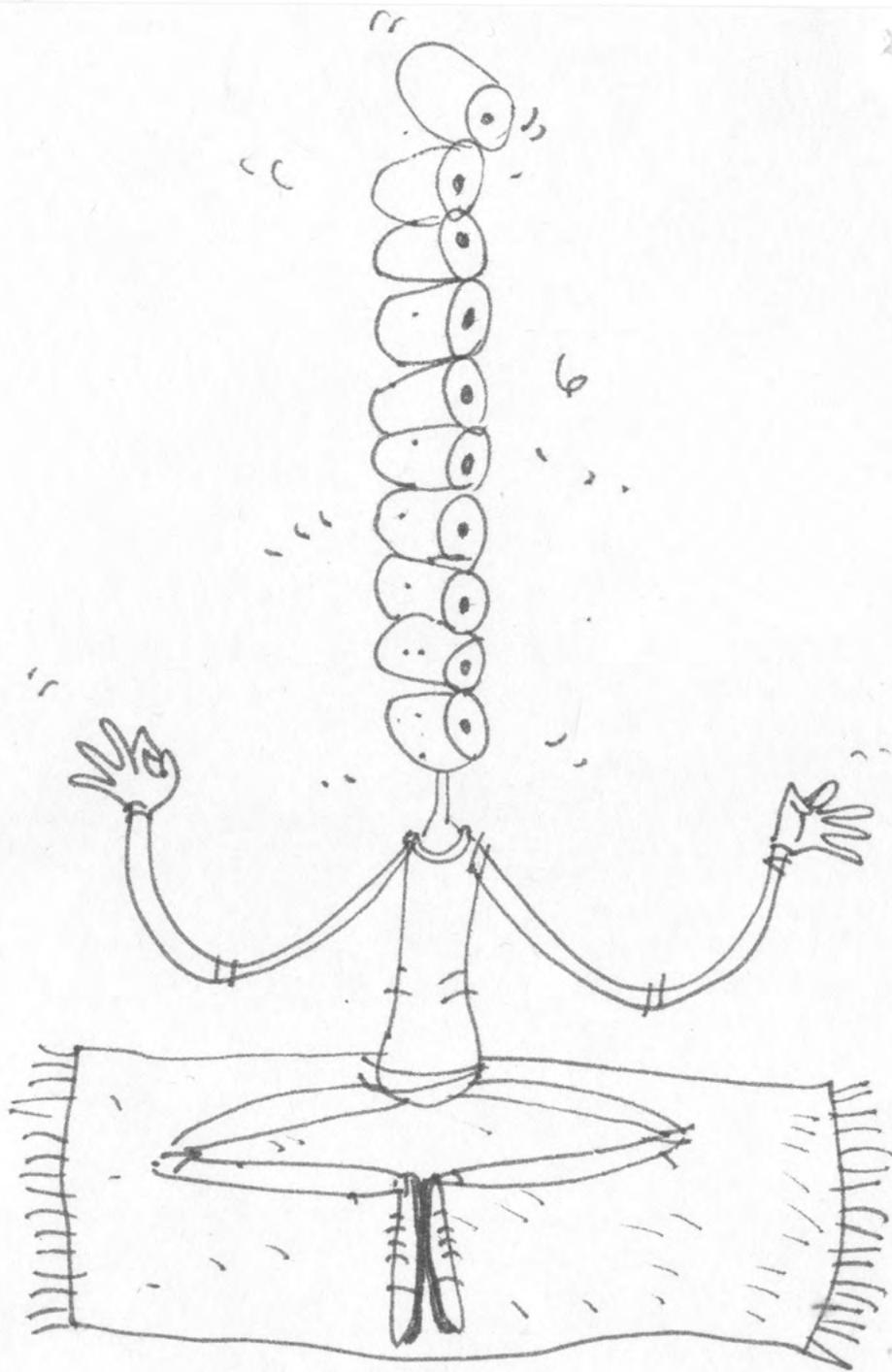
Illustration :

Golnar Abbasi

Toilet paper will never be what it used to be before the so-called covid-19 crisis; not for me at least. As countries announced the beginning of an epidemic in their territories, an incredible madness ensued in supermarkets. All of a sudden, toilet paper turned from the most ordinary product into an invaluable thing that we fought over, brutally; and stored, as much as we could. White gold is what it turned into.

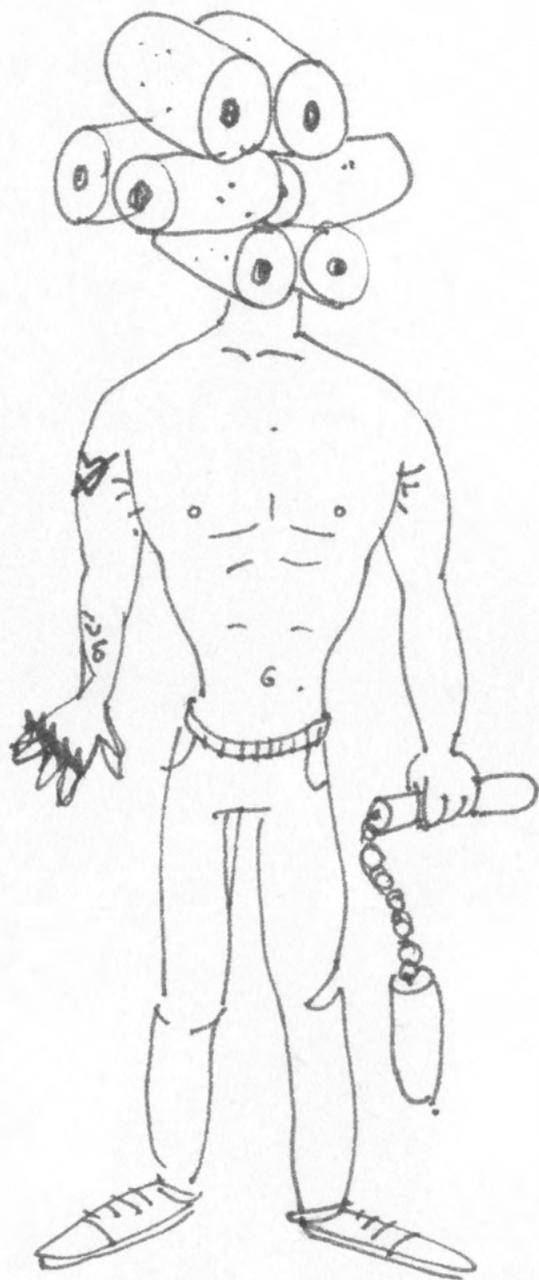
Our compassion, tolerance towards each other, our respecting of each other's 'rights', and ultimately (one could project that) our civilization, all seem to work only as long as there is no real crisis. One should not forget that the toilet paper crisis (and what it implied in terms of our psychology) happened mostly in the so-called First World. Perhaps simply because in many non-western communities, especially non-Christian ones, water is used to clean oneself; and so no one got obsessed with storing toilet paper as soon as they hear of the mandatory quarantine.

In my three-month isolation, I sat in my home, and after weeks of reflection, suddenly had a moment of enlightenment: I am a toilet-paper-head.



ATTAR

Attar mediates a lot, I mean, she does not call it mediation, she calls it just sitting and doing nothing. Her history is a mystery, to everyone, toilet-paper-heads say different things about her past and what she has done in her life. Some say she is a refugee, others say she used to run a very successful toilet-paper business in the Far East and she was one of the richest in her city until one day she left everything behind and moved here with a suitcase and no money. Attar loves her Persian carpet and is a master of all kinds of balancing.



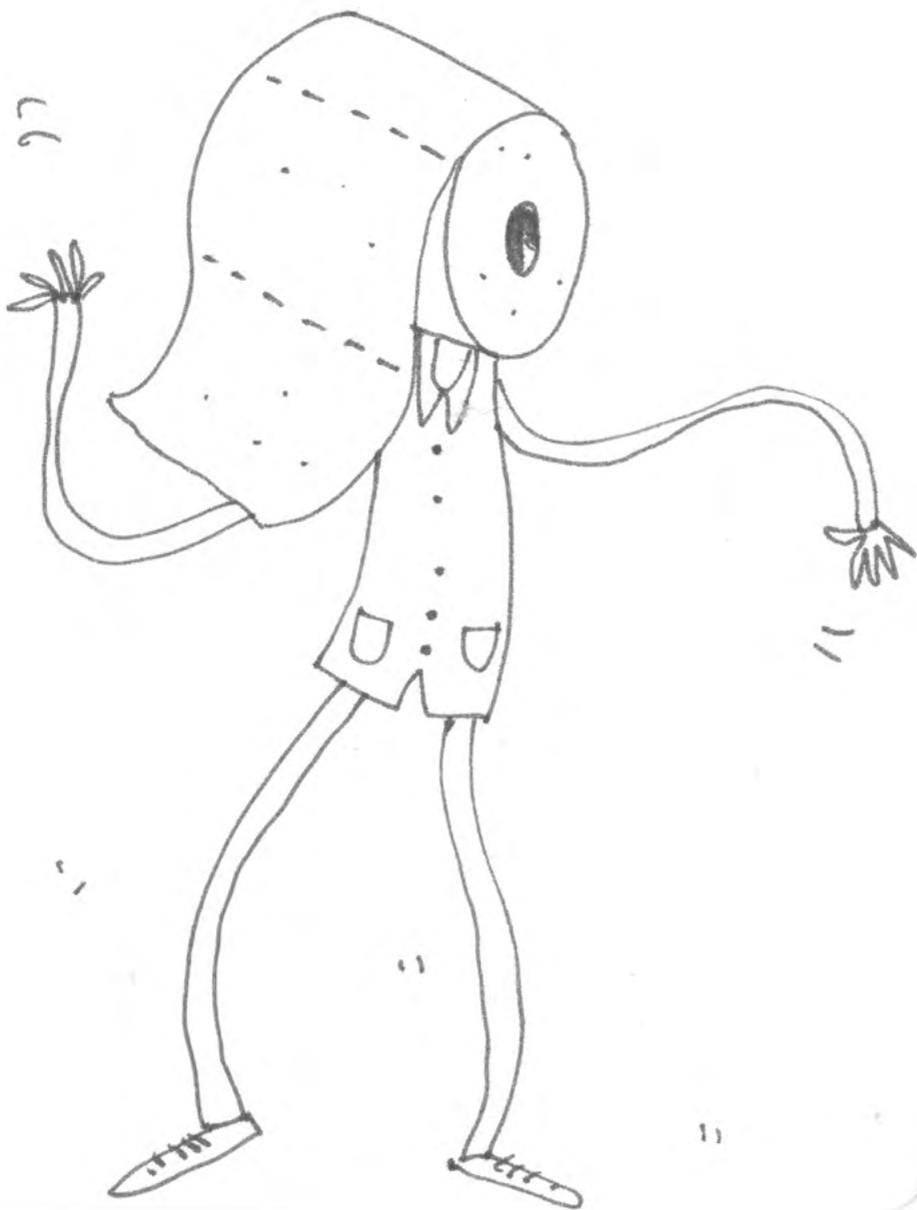
HOUSHANG

Houshang goes to gym everyday and is a master of several different martial arts whose names I do not remember. He is proud of the tattoo on his right elbow which reads 'mother', but seriously regrets the heart and arrow tattoo on his arm which he got when he was a teenager and in love with a girl whose name started with E. Most toilet-paper-heads would tell you that everything about Houshang is too exaggerated and that he's too self-absorbed, but the few wiser ones would tell you that his exaggerated body is just a way of hiding his insecure heart.



HOWAKH-SHATRA

Howakh-shatra loves helping other toilet-paper-heads and you will never see him without his red cape. He goes around looking for (desperate) toilet-paper-heads who are in need of urgent help. If you are stranded on the road with a flat tire, and all of a sudden a skinny guy in a red cape shows up, with a tire on his back, more than happy to help you out, that must be Howakh-Shatra. And he moves fast, if he runs past you in the street, you may think with yourself, “was that a bird? or a plane? or was it actually a missile?”



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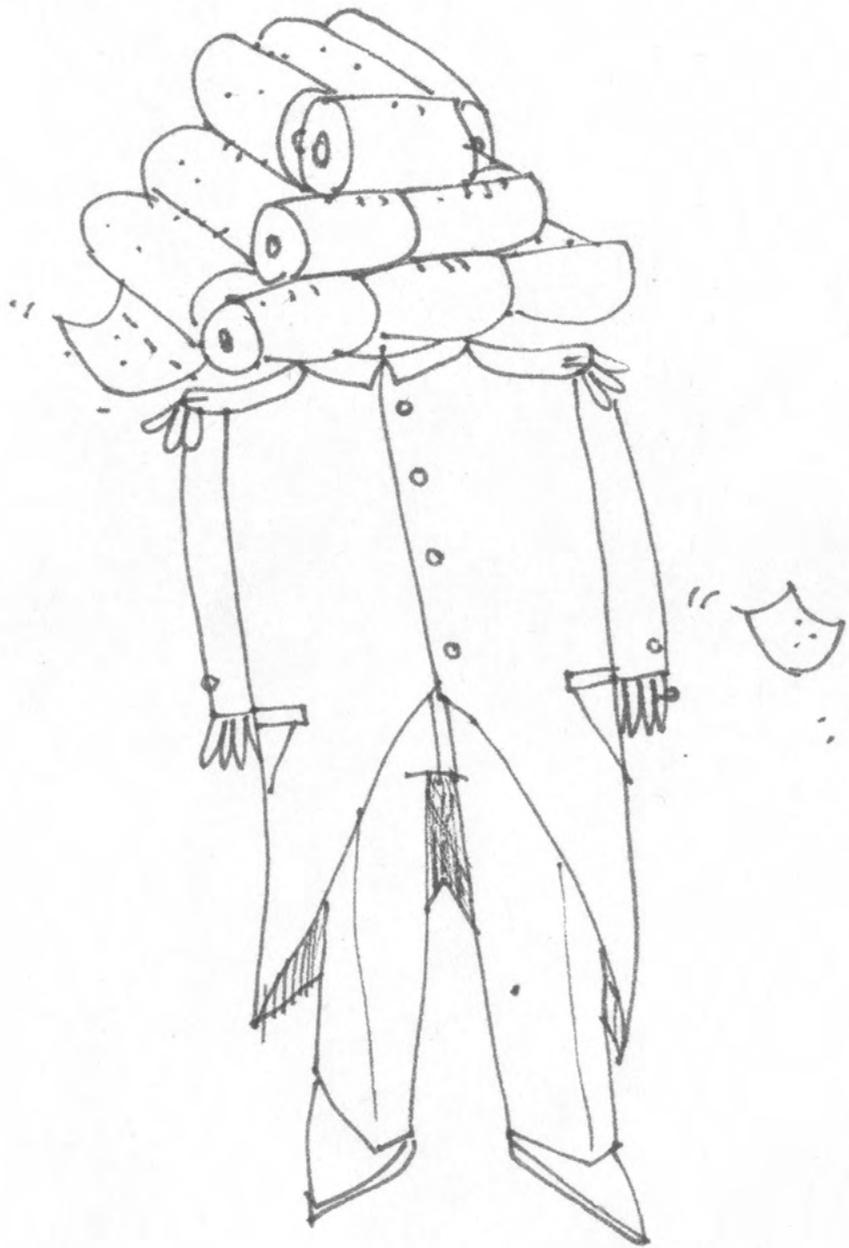
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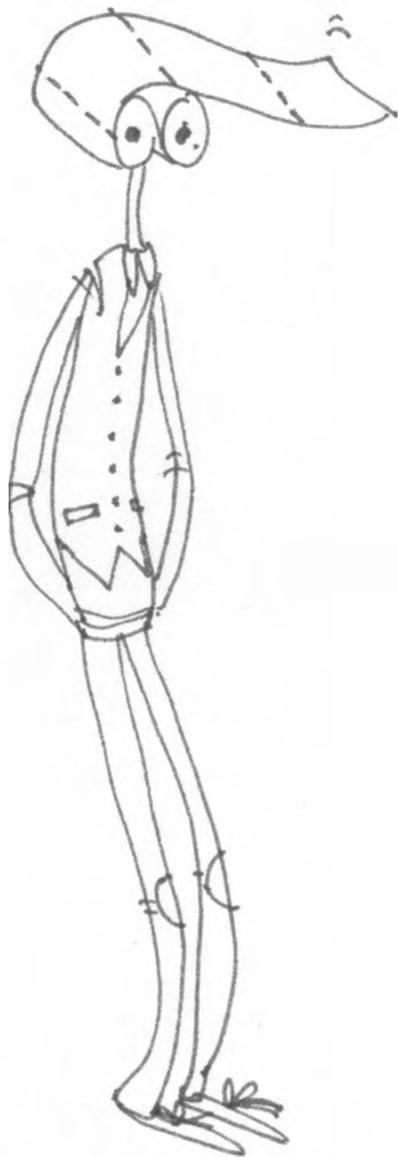
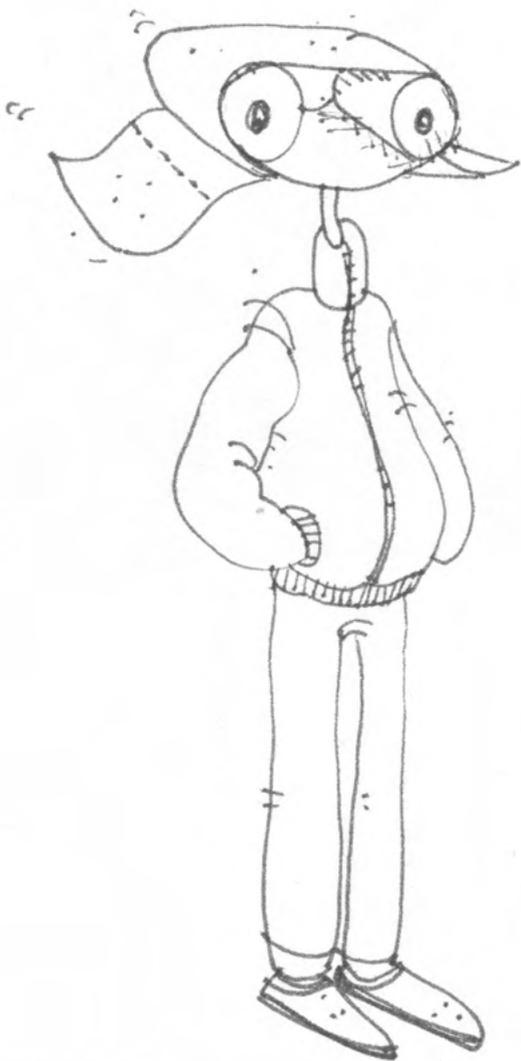
SOLI

Soli is young and passionate, some toilet-paper-heads think he is a boy with a cute girlish face and some assume that she is a girl who wears boys clothes. Soli identifies as none, or maybe both, or how would I know, I would just use “they”. Soli is in primary school and changes their mind often about what they want to become as an adult, sometimes it’s as romantic as musician, sometimes as practical as engineer. And the last time I saw them, it was supermarket owner, because they had just been to a huge supermarket and had seen the cash register open with lots and lots of cash inside.



UNCLE

Uncle Mansour is a retired army sergeant, and always wears a red Agate ring on her pinky. Uncle Mansour takes meticulous care of his clothes and appearance, but he is getting old and is losing his toilet papers, they are falling piece by piece. Every morning that he wakes up, he looks at his pillow and feels terrible as he sees the few pieces of toilet paper fallen from his head during his sleep and sticking onto the pillow. After some reflection, he takes them off one by one, walks across the room and throws them in the trash can, while letting out a deep sigh, “another beautiful day has started, Mansour.”



COEN & THIJS

Coen and Thijs are mysterious brothers, nobody knows what they actually do, they just hang out, always with their hands in their pockets. And they observe. Thijs is skinny and so tall that he unconsciously bends his knees to look a bit shorter. Coen loves his jacket and seems to observe and record everything like a cctv camera.



MOSI

Mosi is a philosopher who has never made any money from philosophy, simply because he never managed to get a teaching position, and we all know that there is no way to make a living from philosophy other than teaching it to others. Mosi has some self-destructive tendencies and his favorite activity is sleeping.



MARGOT

Margot is a school principal and is one of the most responsible and kind toilet-paper-heads that I know, to the point that most other toilet-paper-heads take advantage of her kindness, including the tiny kids in her school.

She makes her own cute dresses and carries way too many toilet papers on her head.

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