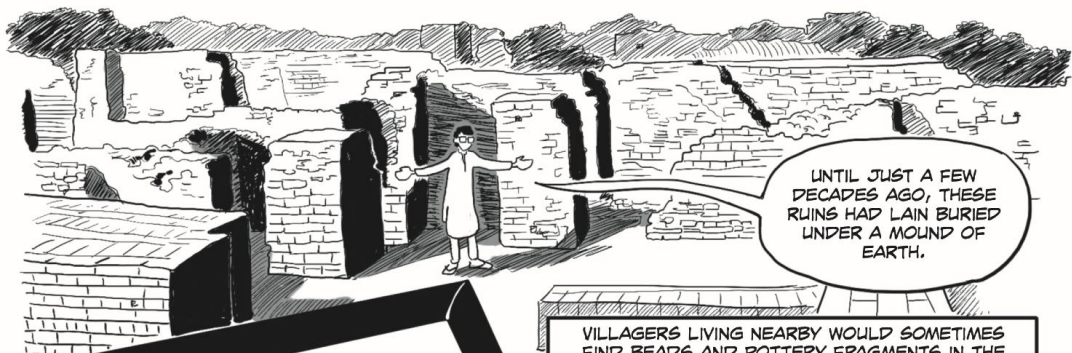


PRESENT DAY



UNTIL JUST A FEW DECADES AGO, THESE RUINS HAD LAIN BURIED UNDER A MOUND OF EARTH.

VILLAGERS LIVING NEARBY WOULD SOMETIMES FIND BEADS AND POTTERY FRAGMENTS IN THE SOIL ...



THEY CALLED IT MOEN-JO DARO OR 'MOUND OF THE DEAD'.*

BUT WHO EXACTLY THE 'DEAD' WERE, OR HOW LONG AGO THEY HAD LIVED, NO ONE KNEW.

... AND SO THEY KNEW THAT AN OLD SETTLEMENT LAY BURIED HERE.



* THE NAME COULD HAVE COME FROM THE SINDHI TERM MOHAN-JO DARO OR THE MOUND OF MOHAN (KRISHNA).

THEN ARCHAEOLOGISTS
STARTED COMING HERE
IN THE EARLY DECADES
OF THE 20TH CENTURY.

WHAT DREW THEIR
ATTENTION AT FIRST WAS A
STUPA THAT STOOD ON TOP OF
THE MOUND—A 2000-YEAR-OLD
RELIC OF THE BUDDHIST AGE.*

* FROM THE KUSHANA
PERIOD, 2ND CENTURY CE.

BUT WHEN THEY DUG INTO THE SOIL
AROUND IT THEY DISCOVERED SOMETHING
FAR MORE ANCIENT ...

A BRONZE AGE
CITY THAT HAD
FLOURISHED
MORE THAN
4500 YEARS
AGO.

MOHENJO DARO

WHEN MOHENJO DARO WAS DISCOVERED
REPORTS HAD ALREADY BEEN COMING IN FROM
ANOTHER EXCAVATION SITE, 600 KM AWAY NEAR A
SMALL CITY CALLED HARAPPA.



THE SAME KINDS OF ARTEFACTS WERE TURNING
UP IN HARAPPA AS IN MOHENJO DARO, TELLING
ARCHAEOLOGISTS THAT THE TWO SITES HAD
BEEN CONNECTED.

AND WHAT'S
MORE, BOTH
HAD BEEN
LARGE CITIES.



AT THE TIME, NOBODY HAD
ANY IDEA THAT CITIES HAD
EXISTED IN THE INDIAN
SUBCONTINENT, SO LONG
AGO*.

IT WAS A
MOMENTOUS
DISCOVERY.

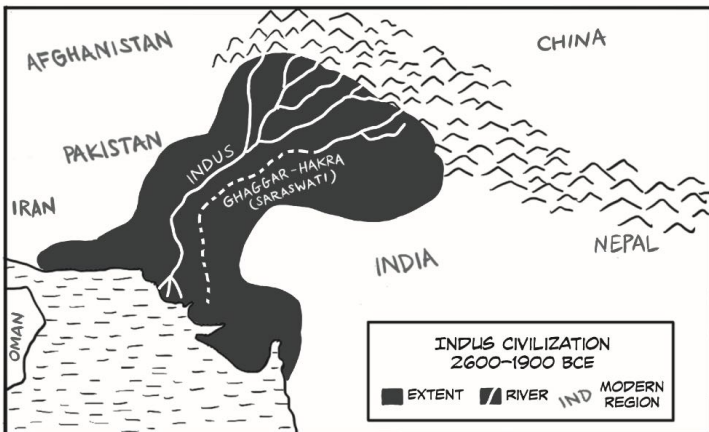
* THE EARLIEST KNOWN
CITIES (LIKE PATALIPUTRA)
DATED ONLY TO AROUND
500 BCE.



SINCE THEN
ARCHAEOLOGISTS
HAVE UNEARTHED FOUR
LARGE CITIES AND
THOUSANDS OF
SMALLER TOWNS AND
VILLAGES, ALL
DATING TO THE
SAME TIME
PERIOD.

ALL OF THESE SITES HAD
BEEN INTEGRATED INTO A
SINGLE WEB OF
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL
RELATIONS WHICH TODAY
WE CALL THE INDUS
CIVILIZATION*.

* ALSO CALLED HARAPPAN
CIVILIZATION AFTER THE FIRST
SITE THAT WAS DISCOVERED.






OVER THE LAST
HUNDRED YEARS OR SO,
ARCHAEOLOGISTS HAVE BEEN
STUDYING THE REMAINS OF
THESE ANCIENT CITIES.

DUE TO THEIR EXTREME
ANTIQUITY, THERE'S MUCH
THAT REMAINS IN THE DARK.

FOR EXAMPLE, EVEN
THOUGH WRITTEN TEXTS
SURVIVE, WE CANNOT
READ THEM.

AS A RESULT, THE INDUS
CIVILIZATION REMAINS ONE
OF THE MOST MYSTERIOUS
ANCIENT CIVILIZATIONS OF
THE WORLD.

An aerial view of an ancient city, likely Mohenjo-daro, showing a well-planned grid system of streets and buildings. The city is situated on a riverbank, with a river flowing alongside it. The surrounding landscape is flat with some sparse vegetation.

NEVERTHELESS, SCHOLARS HAVE BEEN
SLOWLY COLLECTING THE PIECES OF THIS
GIANT JIGSAW PUZZLE AND RECONSTRUCTING
A PICTURE OF WHAT LIFE WAS LIKE HERE,
THOUSANDS OF YEARS AGO.

MOHENJO DARO'S
EXCAVATED AREAS

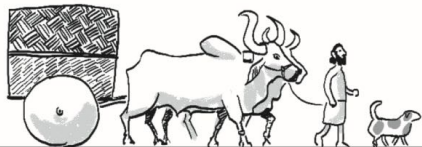
LET'S TAKE A
LOOK.



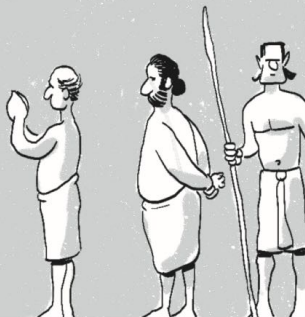


THE YEAR IS
2600 BCE, GIVE OR
TAKE 50 YEARS.

STARTING FROM A VILLAGE MANY
CENTURIES AGO, MOHENJO DARO
HAS GROWN TO BECOME ONE OF THE
MAJOR CITIES OF THE WORLD.

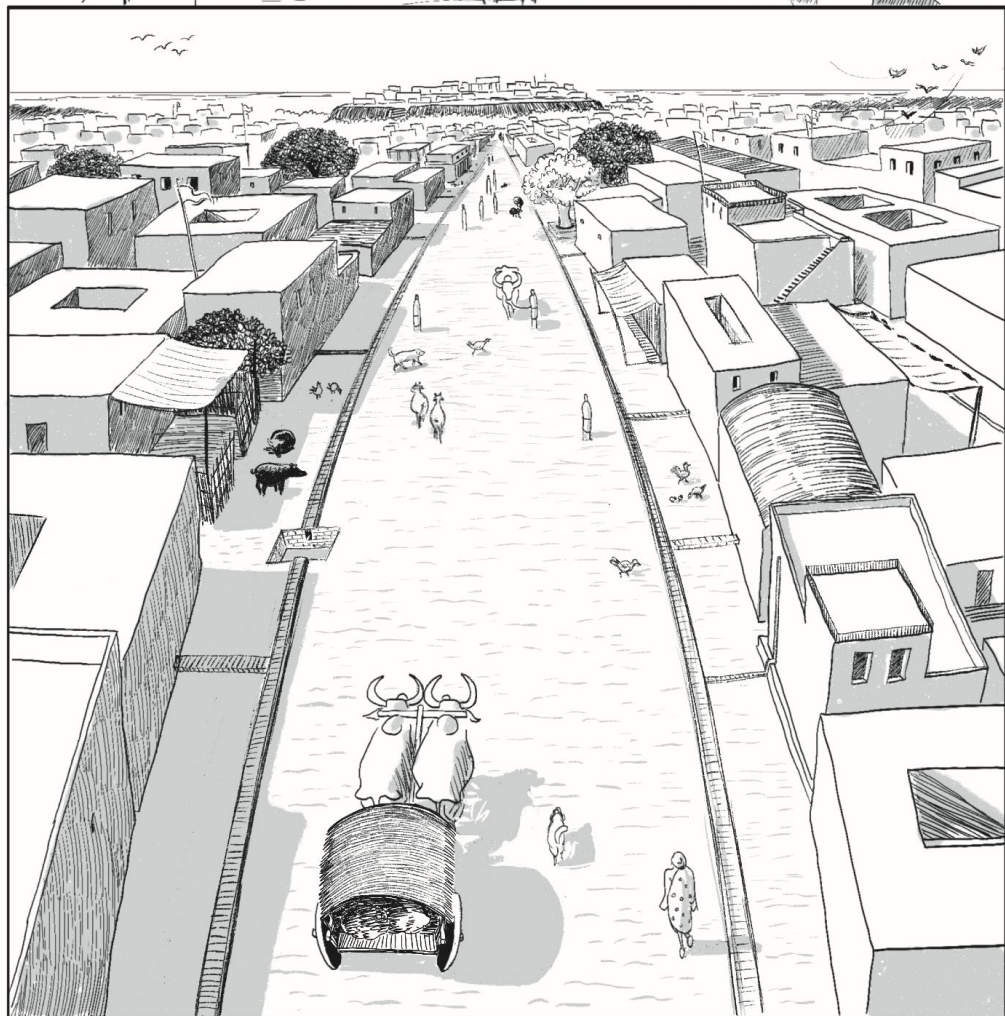
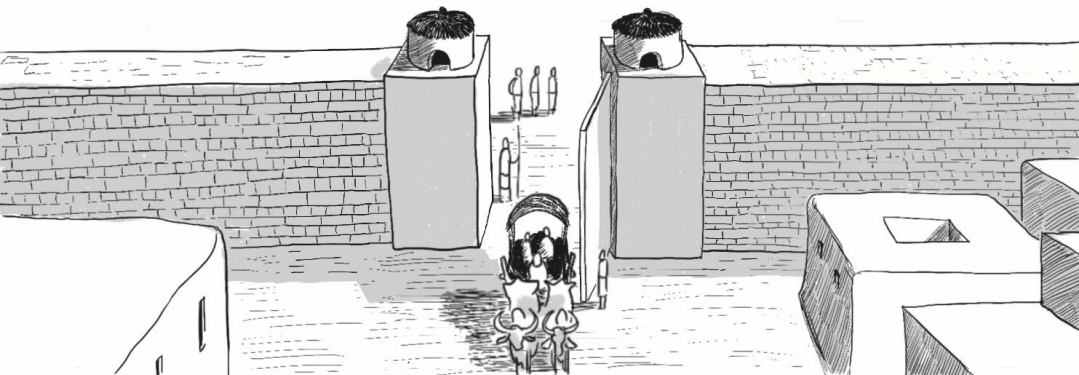


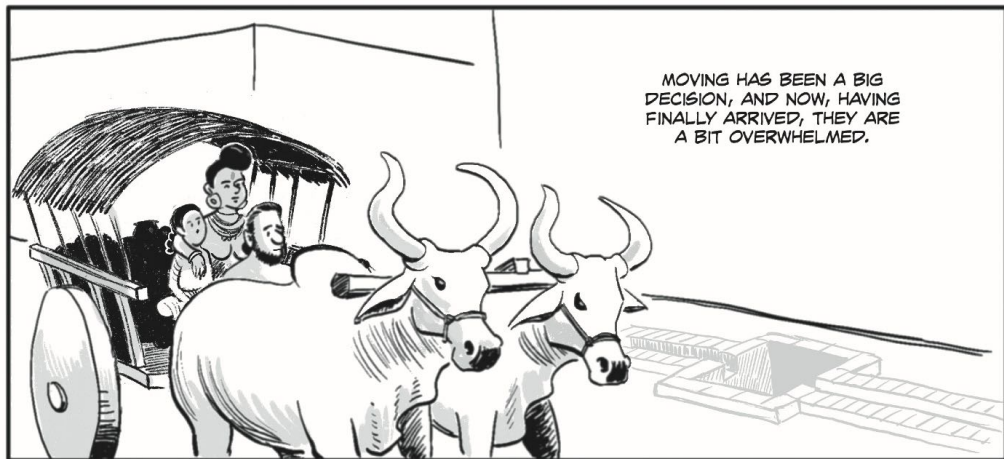
IT HAS GROWN NOT ONLY
INDIGENOUSLY BUT ALSO FROM
THE MIGRATION OF PEOPLE FROM
DISTANT PLACES.



THIS IS A FAMILY OF COPPERSMITHS WHO
DECIDED TO MOVE TO MOHENJO DARO FROM
THEIR VILLAGE AFTER HEARING OF THE GREAT
DEMAND FOR COPPER WORKERS IN THE CITY.





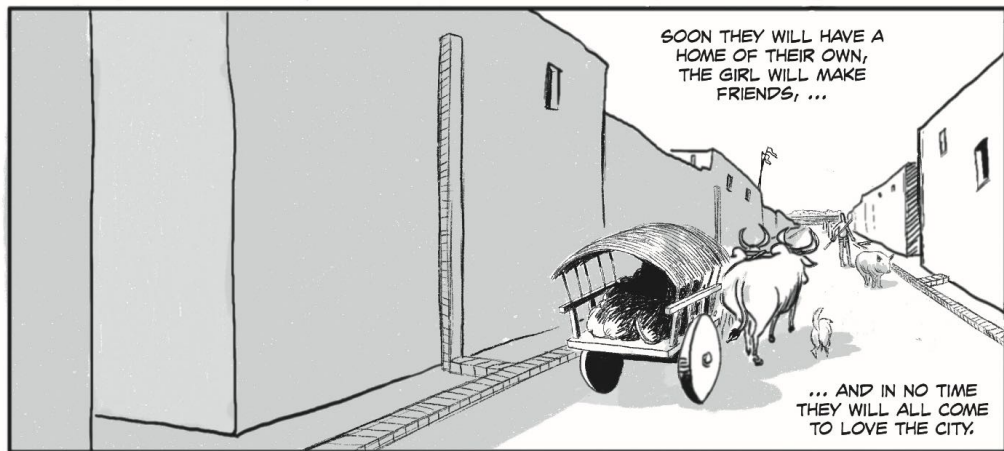


MOVING HAS BEEN A BIG DECISION, AND NOW, HAVING FINALLY ARRIVED, THEY ARE A BIT OVERWHELMED.



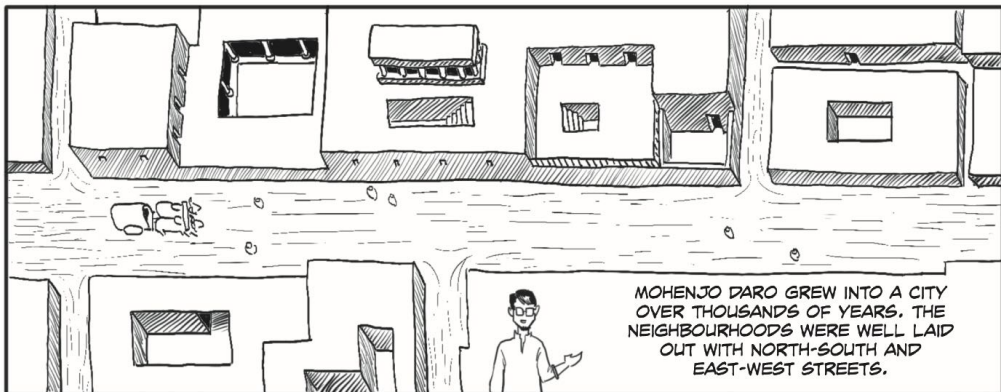
THE WOMAN IS REASSURING HER FAMILY THAT EVERYTHING WILL BE ALRIGHT.

THEIR CLAN ELDERS WILL GIVE THEM WORK AND THE CITY AUTHORITIES WILL HELP THEM SETTLE DOWN.

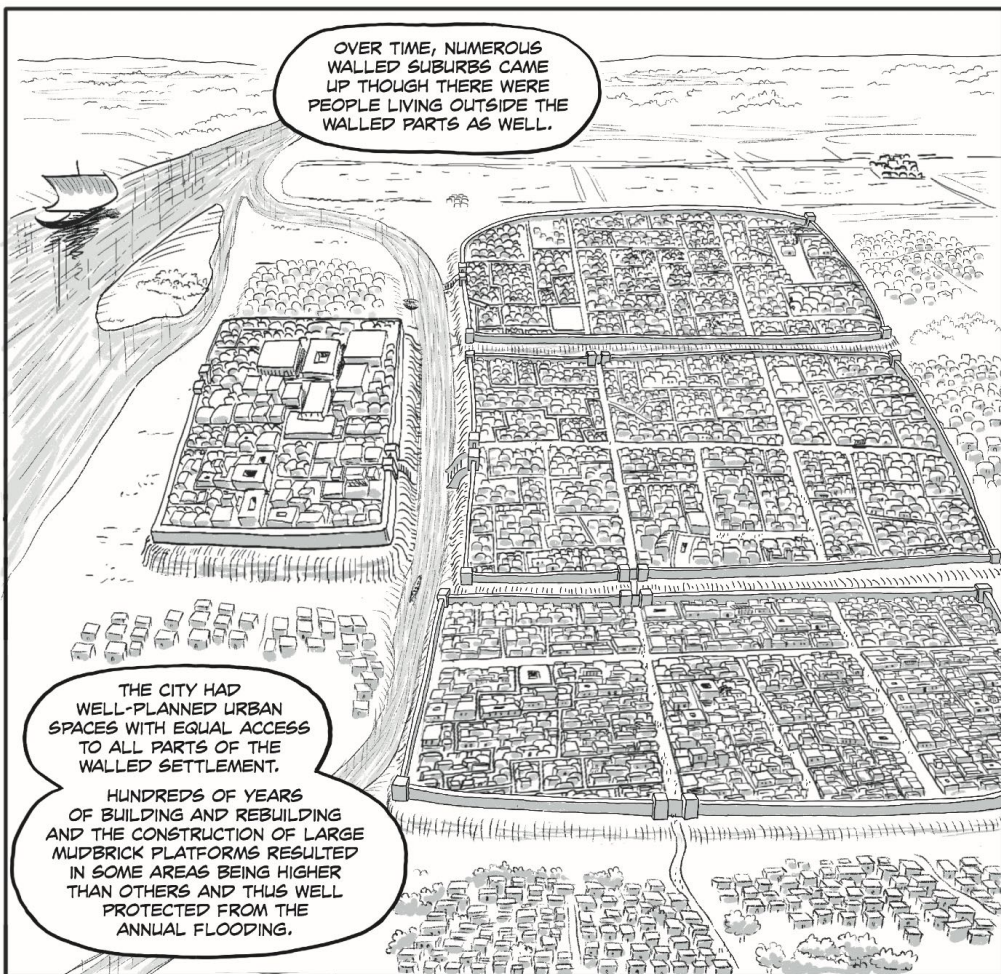


SOON THEY WILL HAVE A HOME OF THEIR OWN, THE GIRL WILL MAKE FRIENDS, ...

... AND IN NO TIME THEY WILL ALL COME TO LOVE THE CITY.



MOHENJO DARO GREW INTO A CITY OVER THOUSANDS OF YEARS. THE NEIGHBOURHOODS WERE WELL LAID OUT WITH NORTH-SOUTH AND EAST-WEST STREETS.



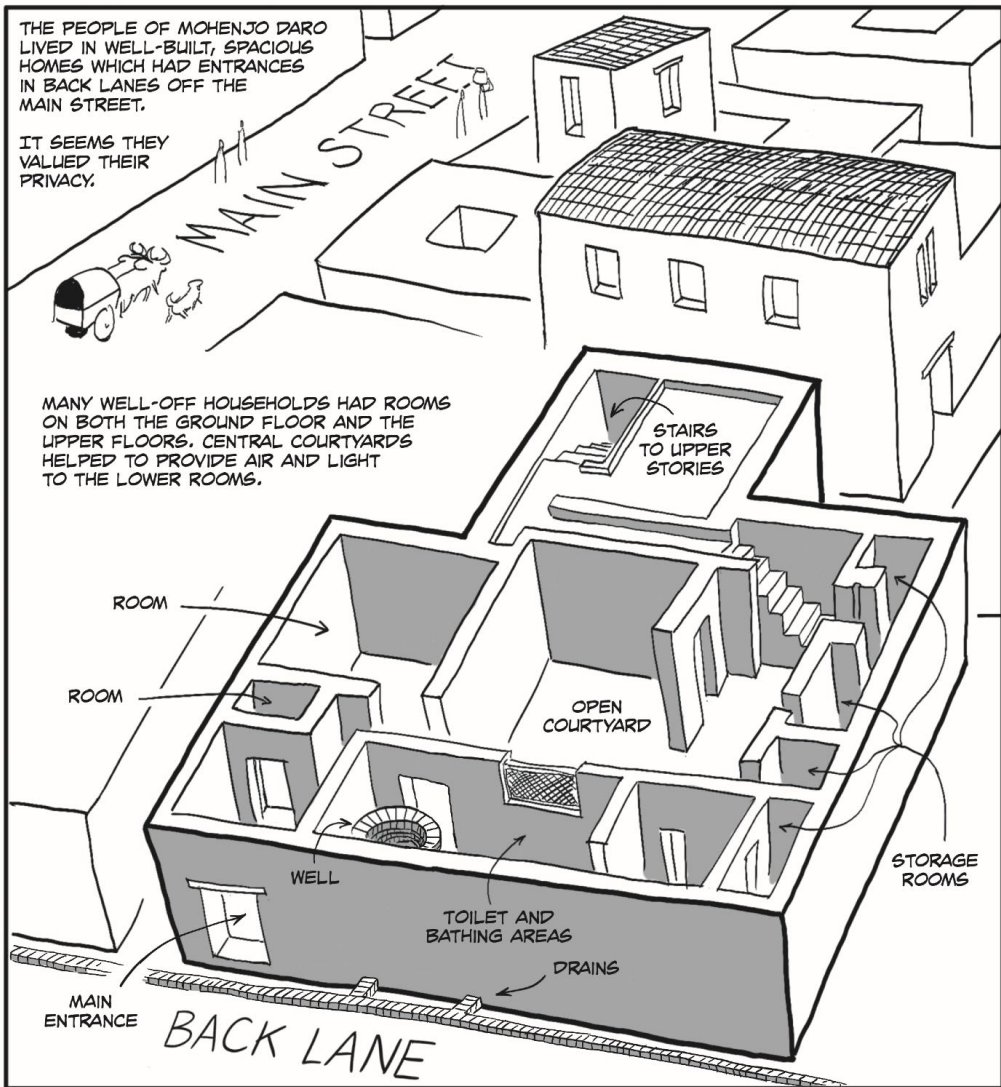
OVER TIME, NUMEROUS WALLED SUBURBS CAME UP THOUGH THERE WERE PEOPLE LIVING OUTSIDE THE WALLED PARTS AS WELL.

THE CITY HAD WELL-PLANNED URBAN SPACES WITH EQUAL ACCESS TO ALL PARTS OF THE WALLED SETTLEMENT.

HUNDREDS OF YEARS OF BUILDING AND REBUILDING AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF LARGE MUDBRICK PLATFORMS RESULTED IN SOME AREAS BEING HIGHER THAN OTHERS AND THUS WELL PROTECTED FROM THE ANNUAL FLOODING.

THE PEOPLE OF MOHENJO DARO LIVED IN WELL-BUILT, SPACIOUS HOMES WHICH HAD ENTRANCES IN BACK LANES OFF THE MAIN STREET.

IT SEEMS THEY VALUED THEIR PRIVACY.

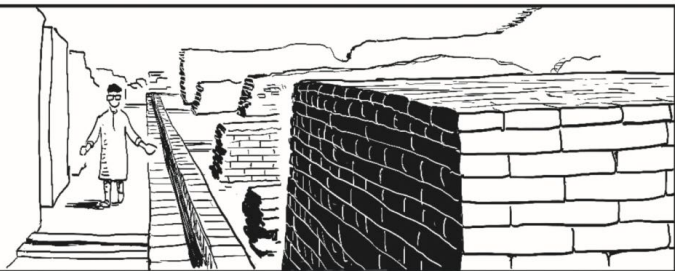


THE UPPER STORIES ARE NOW GONE, BUILT AS THEY WERE OUT OF WOOD, BUT STAIRCASES LIKE THIS TELL US THEY EXISTED.

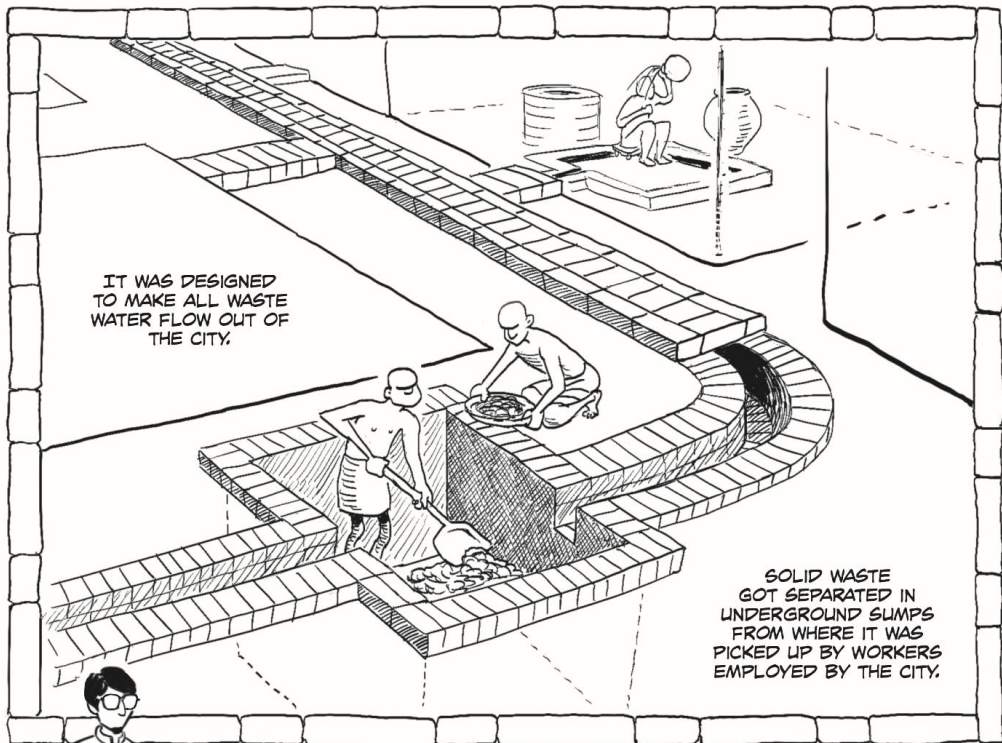
SOME HOUSES MAY EVEN HAVE HAD UP TO THREE STORIES.



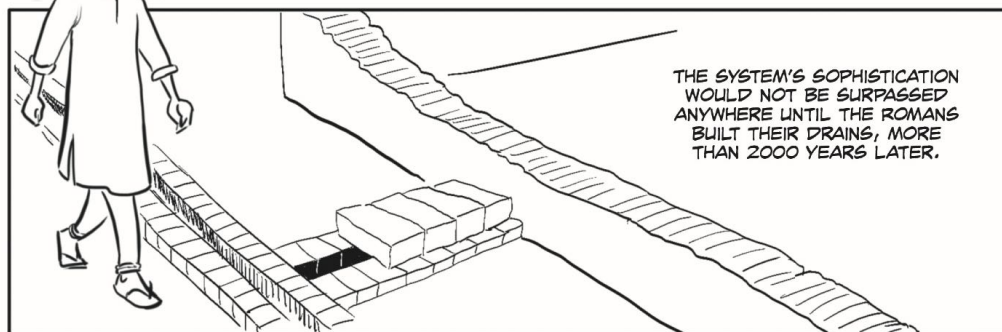
ALL HOMES HAD
BATHS AND TOILETS THAT
DRAINED INTO UNDERGROUND
CHANNELS, THAT FED INTO A
CITY-WIDE WASTEWATER
COLLECTION SYSTEM.



IT WAS DESIGNED
TO MAKE ALL WASTE
WATER FLOW OUT OF
THE CITY.



SOLID WASTE
GOT SEPARATED IN
UNDERGROUND SUMPS
FROM WHERE IT WAS
PICKED UP BY WORKERS
EMPLOYED BY THE CITY.

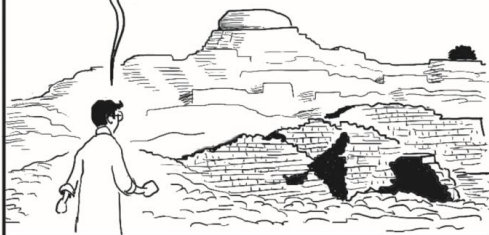


THE SYSTEM'S SOPHISTICATION
WOULD NOT BE SURPASSED
ANYWHERE UNTIL THE ROMANS
BUILT THEIR DRAINS, MORE
THAN 2000 YEARS LATER.

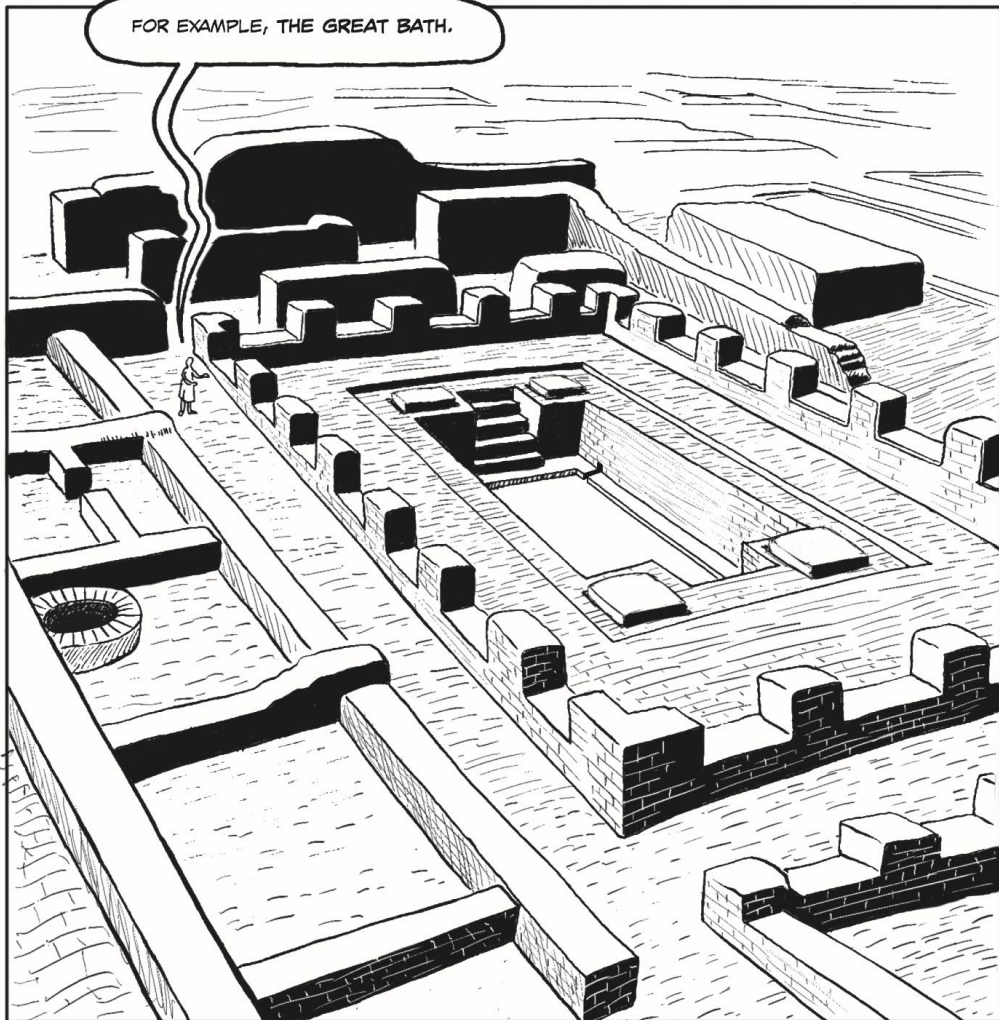
WHILE THE HOMES AND STREETS
OF MOHENJO DARO ARE
INTERESTING ENOUGH ...

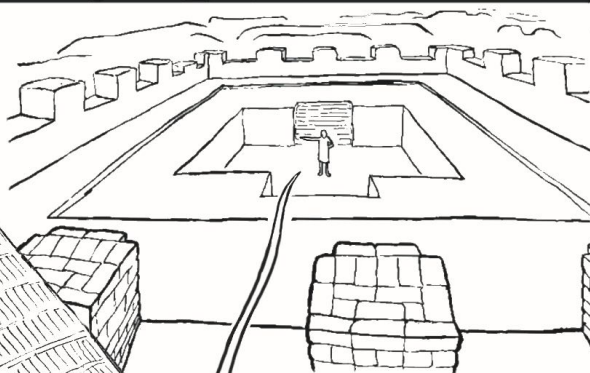
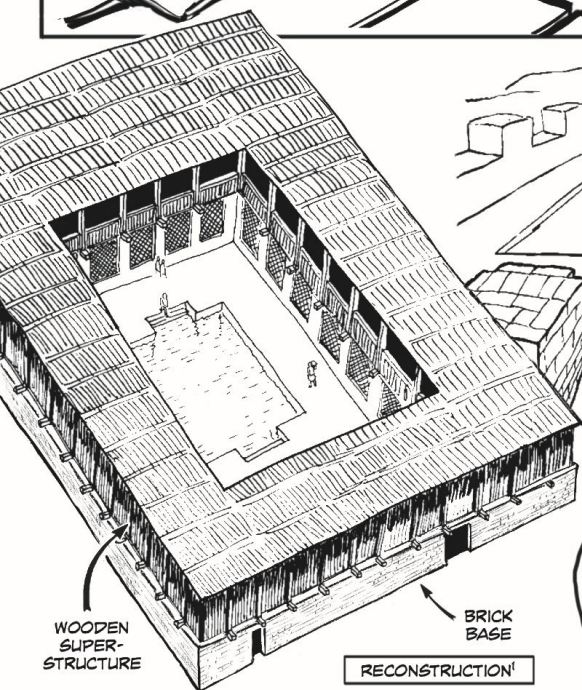
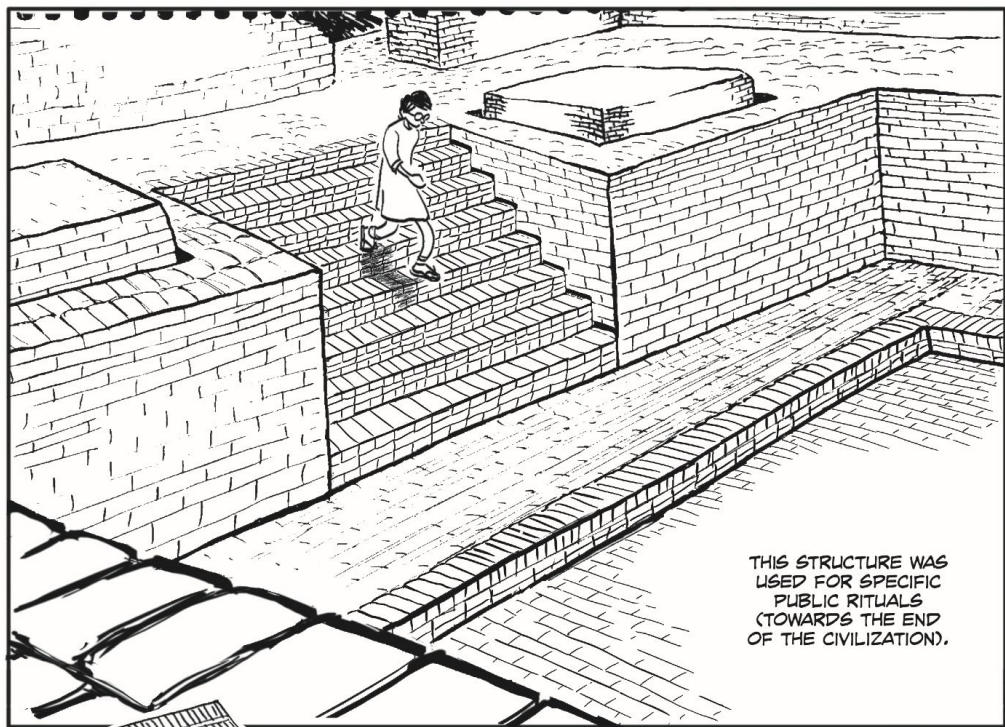


THE CITY'S PUBLIC
BUILDINGS ARE EVEN
MORE IMPRESSIVE.



FOR EXAMPLE, THE GREAT BATH.



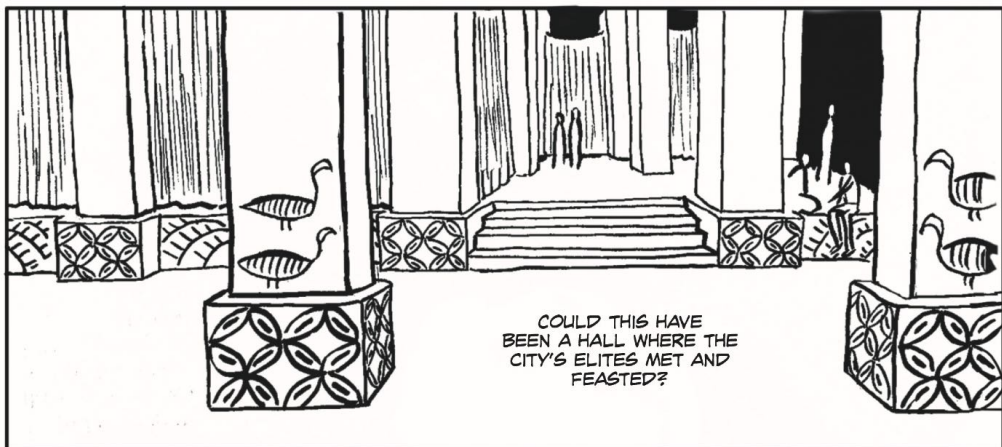


THERE ARE BATHING AREAS WHERE PEOPLE WOULD HAVE BATHED BEFORE ENTERING THE GREAT BATH.

HERE'S
THE SO-CALLED
PILLARED HALL.

JUST LIKE THE GREAT BATH, WE DON'T KNOW
HOW EXACTLY IT WAS USED. IT LOOKS LIKE AN
ASSEMBLY HALL OF SOME SORT.

VERTICAL BRICKS, PERHAPS USED
AS BACK SUPPORTS FOR PEOPLE
SITTING ON THE GROUND

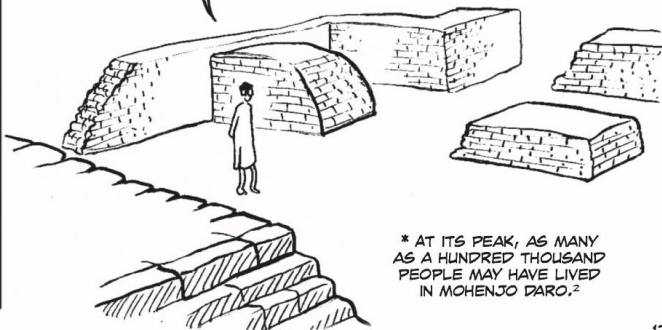


COULD THIS HAVE
BEEN A HALL WHERE THE
CITY'S ELITES MET AND
FEASTED?

WHATEVER THEIR
PURPOSE, IT SEEMS THAT
THE GREAT BATH AND THE
PILLARED HALL WERE
PRESTIGIOUS BUILDINGS.

ONLY THE
WEALTHY ELITE,
THE RULING CLASSES
OF MOHENJO DARO,
WOULD HAVE HAD
ACCESS TO
THEM.

AND FROM HERE THEY WOULD HAVE GOVERNED THIS
VAST AND TEEMING METROPOLIS WHICH, IN ITS TIME, WAS
ONE OF THE LARGEST CITIES OF THE WORLD.*



* AT ITS PEAK, AS MANY
AS A HUNDRED THOUSAND
PEOPLE MAY HAVE LIVED
IN MOHENJO DARO.²