

AOF Survey of the Apocalypse

Commission	Department of Futurity: Archive of Obsolete Feelings
Researcher(s)	The Archivist [true name: unknown]
Season/Year	Fourth season, 20XX [true date: variable]
Location	Scattered Lands [true location: variable]

Overview

Thank you for expressing interest in completing this survey conducted by the Archive of Obsolete Feelings (AOF), branch of the Department of Futurity. Our goal is to ensure the preservation and continuation of forms of expression that have been abandoned or rejected since the world changed: feelings that have no discernable place in the world we now inhabit.

Your responses will be compensated via resource trade—ex: a book, a cast iron pan, a packet of seeds, a new pair of boots, a song, an embrace, a ride across the river. Value will be approximated through collaborative means between you and the researcher(s).

Response Guidelines

- We deploy the word “apocalypse” broadly—please respond to the term however you see fit, in whatever way you envision and have experienced your own corner of this apocalypse.
- You can respond in paragraphs, full or half sentences, bullet points, sketches—in whatever way seems best to answer these questions. If you will be responding by hand, we will send you a guide on how to scan and return your responses.

To confirm your participation in the survey, please provide your name and location below. We thank you in advance for cooperating.

Name: *Damon*

Location: *New Area 4*

Questions: Set 1

1. What have you packed in your bag to survive? What does your gear/kit look like? Do you carry any memorabilia or objects of personal significance?

a few things beyond the basics: diary, bit damaged now; seeds I have no idea from what plant but like allegedly some vegetal thing of sustenance; baby penguin plush (his cousins lost); dictionary (so many words that index something only Before); blue tarp with holes but I carry it for the color; bluetooth speaker without a charger (for trade in the future)

2. Are you alone or with companions? Nonhuman familiars? Old voices? Imagined or remembered friends? Who do you reach for?

human companions. would have not made it this far South without them... i try not to 'imagine' or 'remember' or 'reach for' people beyond who's with me now, though, lately. and there's enough on my mind as-is. surviving and whatnot. but of course the cracks come up.

3. What landscape, physical and/or emotional, are you traveling through or situated in? Do you have a desired destination in mind? What carries your body?

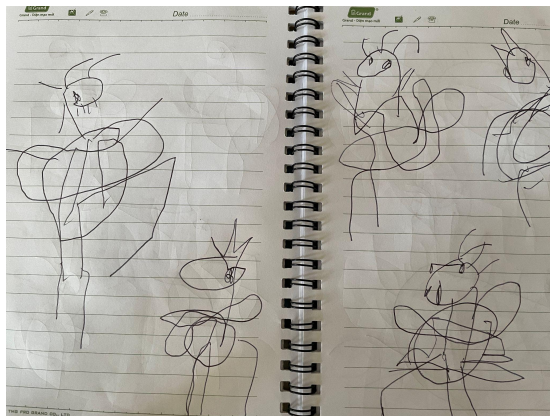
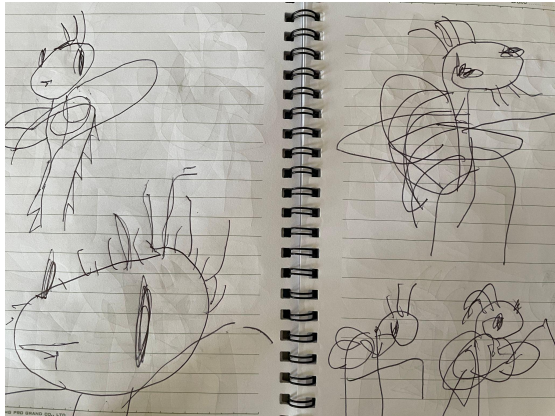
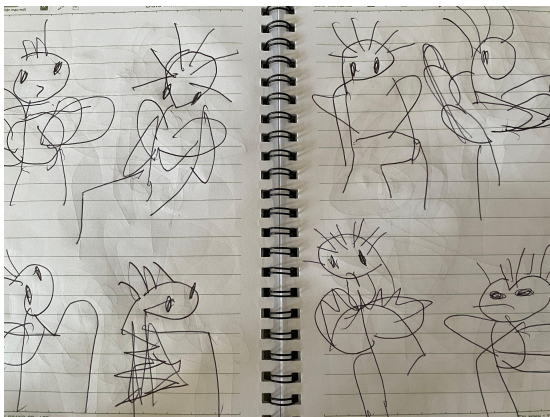
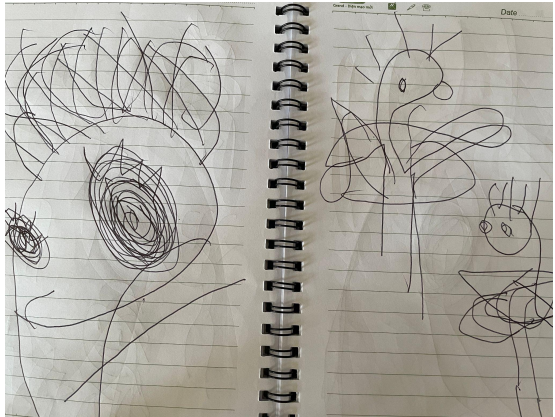
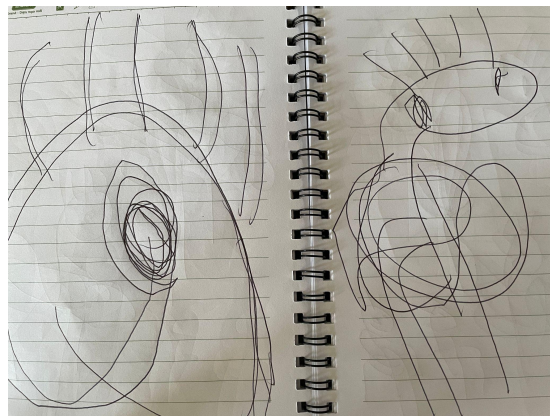
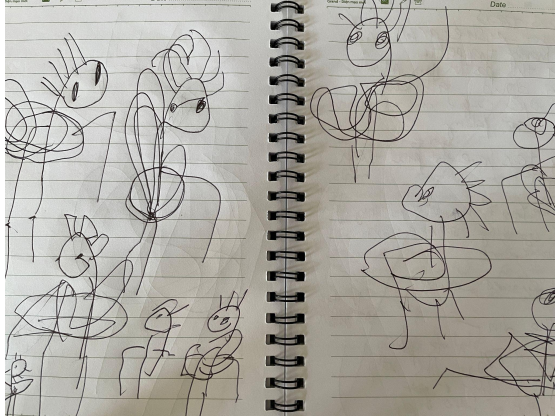
toward the Equator, like everyone else. past month, we've been making our way across former jungles. no environmental shelter from the New Rain. yeah, it sucks!

4. What is the one act or habit that roots you in this apocalypse? Are you able to afford any kind of daily routine or practice?

even Before I never was the person to have something like that. no roots, not now. and i think that would be a dangerous feeling. because roots bring along sentimentality. even thinking of my companions as a 'place', none of us are under the illusion that we'll hang out much once we make it to Town.

5. Please use the space below (or, if elsewhere, please specify) to draw/sketch something you've seen in this apocalypse. It does not need to be "realistic."

visions of these creatures. can't say why. but they visit my daydreams and i feel good letting them exist there for however they like.



Questions: Set 2

6. How do you feel when you look outside the window, or tent, or shelter, today?

for a period of my life Before, looking at scenery was often an evocative experience. often magnifying my internal state of mind: wistful, hopeless, jubilant. "how will i choose to be in the world today?" but through into the near future there's only one possible answer to that question. moving, surviving. physical action and plans for future physical action. how many days left till this location, till that runs out. and, funny, it's honestly less stressful like this on the whole. not having to satiate the needy, needy Ego.

7. How do you feel about yourself in the alternate universe where there was no apocalypse? *Jealous, betrayed... thankful?*

well, despite my answer to the previous question, jealous beyond a doubt. i mean, the state of the world. simply. all the loved ones we lost... how could anyone answer this question differently??? who would write this kind of question?

8. How do you feel about the mechanisms of this apocalypse, as it's played out? *Maybe you'd rather have had to brave another element, a different plague...?*

the sense of irony has only deepened with time. but, hmm, thinking elementally. no, i think... this is the best of all possible apocalypses!! ;) But really, I do prefer rain over some awful expanse of dryness. hunger over some kind of disease.

9. How do you feel about the secrets you carry? How do you feel about the stars that have seen them, the winds that have heard them?

trivial; my stakes are out in the open and not unlike everyone else's at this time, i feel. all secrets are old secrets from Before and their weight hasn't carried over.

10. How do you feel when you think about the "end" of this apocalypse, wherever that marker lies, when the next, less-defined period of existence begins?

well i hope i meet someone really hot. after covering the basics, of course. haha! really though, that would be the 'end' for me. when i feel secure enough to lay down roots. in or nearby Town. to rlsK tHe HeArT

Questions: Set 3

11. What is the thing you wanted to say or do before the world changed?

oh, lots of little sentimental things with people. it's painful to peruse the choices, let alone select one. let's move on to the next question...

12. What songs do you remember from before? What songs have you returned to?
Have their meanings changed? Would you sing these songs differently now?

instrumental songs are harder and harder to play in my head with time. i remember a lot of rap songs, and no, their feeling has remained the same. a sense of determinedness.

13. In this apocalypse, what mundane occasion do you miss? *A county fair? Going to the grocery store? Chatting with coworkers? Sleeping at the cinema? Watching life pass outside your window?*

meetings, appointments, looking at a clock and calculating minutes.

14. Have you survived other apocalypses? The 2012 apocalypse? Middle school? What makes this apocalypse different from others?

haha! i survived the 2012 apocalypse, but it was different because it didn't quite happen... this one happened.

okay, i'll allow a memory. middle school lunches, there was one year i spent it almost every day playing basketball. (just standing and hurling the ball not actually playing the game of basketball.) anyway, the expanse of cement of maybe 4-6 basketball courts on the playground: long, wide, flat. aimlessly, unpracticingly shooting the ball until the bell rings. yeah, the past month or so feels like that. routineness and doing-this-just-until...

seeing a building in the distance. only 3-4 stories, even: that's going to be crazy. convening with people in a really new space, having to begin learning a trade... maybe the flavors of my excitement for the 'end' of this journey's leg are close to the middle-school kinds :) and yes, i am optimistic my companions and i will make it.

You may use this space to reflect on anything we have not brought up in the survey:

please whatever payment i get, just send it to address #A5-3394 in Town; a friend in need lives there and they will make good use of it, whatever it is. canned foods would be fantastic but i know that's a bit of an ask.