

# The Upside Down

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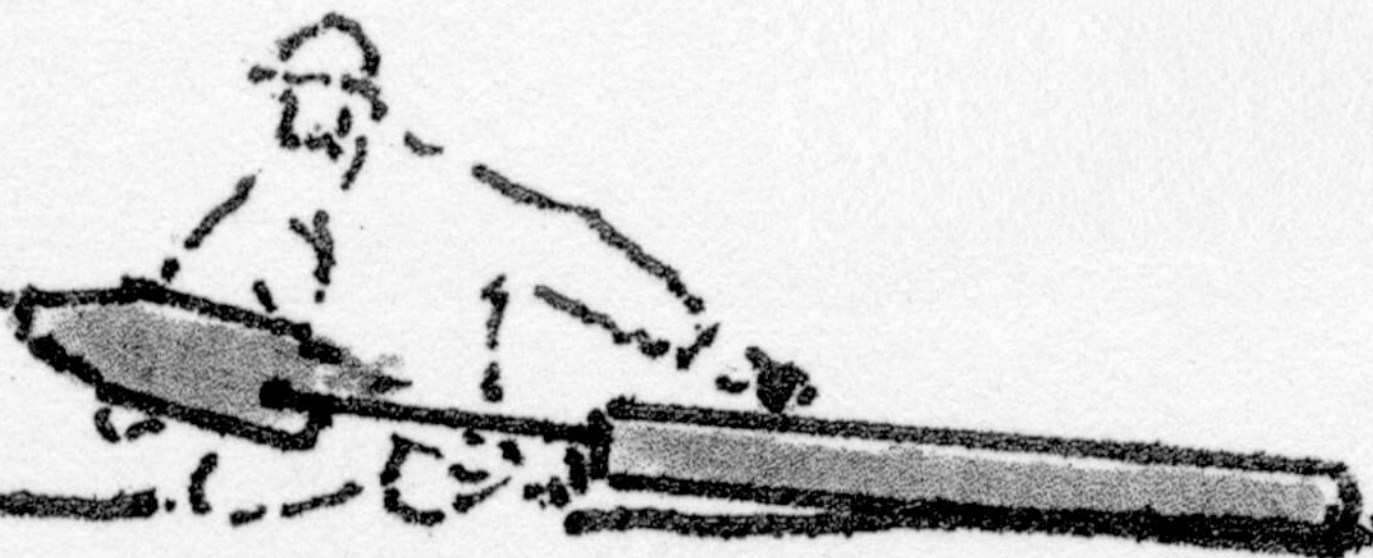


# The Upside Down

by Gianluca Stazi and Giuseppe Casu

commissioning editor: Fabiana Carobolante and Daria Corrias  
for Tre Soldi - Radio3 Rai

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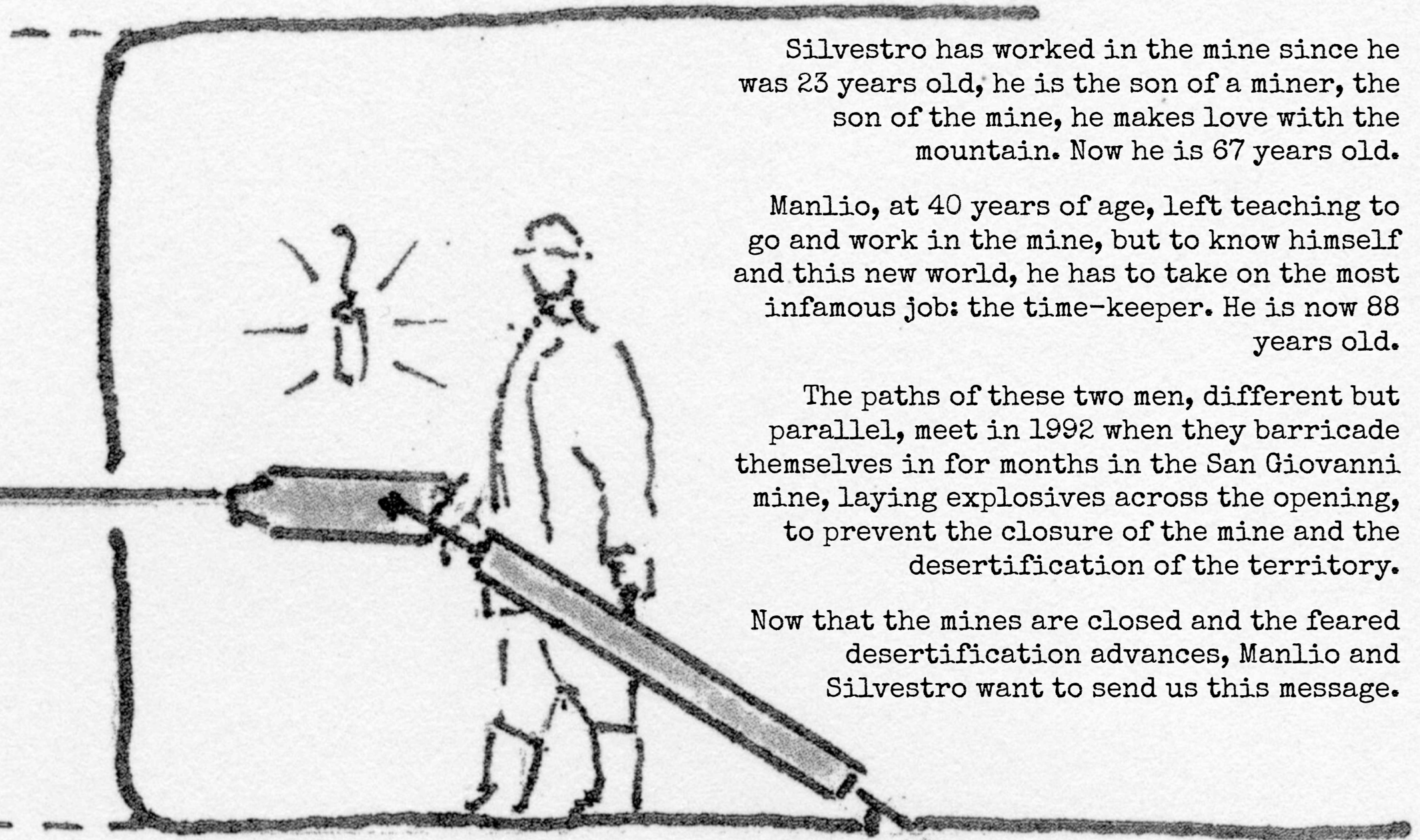


Silvestro has worked in the mine since he was 23 years old, he is the son of a miner, the son of the mine, he makes love with the mountain. Now he is 67 years old.

Manlio, at 40 years of age, left teaching to go and work in the mine, but to know himself and this new world, he has to take on the most infamous job: the time-keeper. He is now 88 years old.

The paths of these two men, different but parallel, meet in 1992 when they barricade themselves in for months in the San Giovanni mine, laying explosives across the opening, to prevent the closure of the mine and the desertification of the territory.

Now that the mines are closed and the feared desertification advances, Manlio and Silvestro want to send us this message.









It wasn't a normal strike like many others at that time, it was a revolution.

Suddenly the San Giovanni mine was closed with thirty miners and explosives inside.

It is my conviction that a complete man is the man who fights to defend his dignity.

During those days, we always defended our dignity, our children's dignity, the territory's dignity. And now, today, the mines are closed. There is practically no new activity and while they said, back then, that the closing of the mines would be the cure-all for the territory - some even said for Sardinia because the mines' deficit could be used as capital to invest in new work - the result that we have today is a slow desertification.

The last battle was won by the boss or the private owner, but we won day after day, every day of the strike was our victory. I left fighting. I had this great fortune, to leave fighting, to retire fighting.

We had a code word and it was 'abruxia': in Sardinian it means 'burn'. When the mine or mines had to be exploded, you said abruxia!







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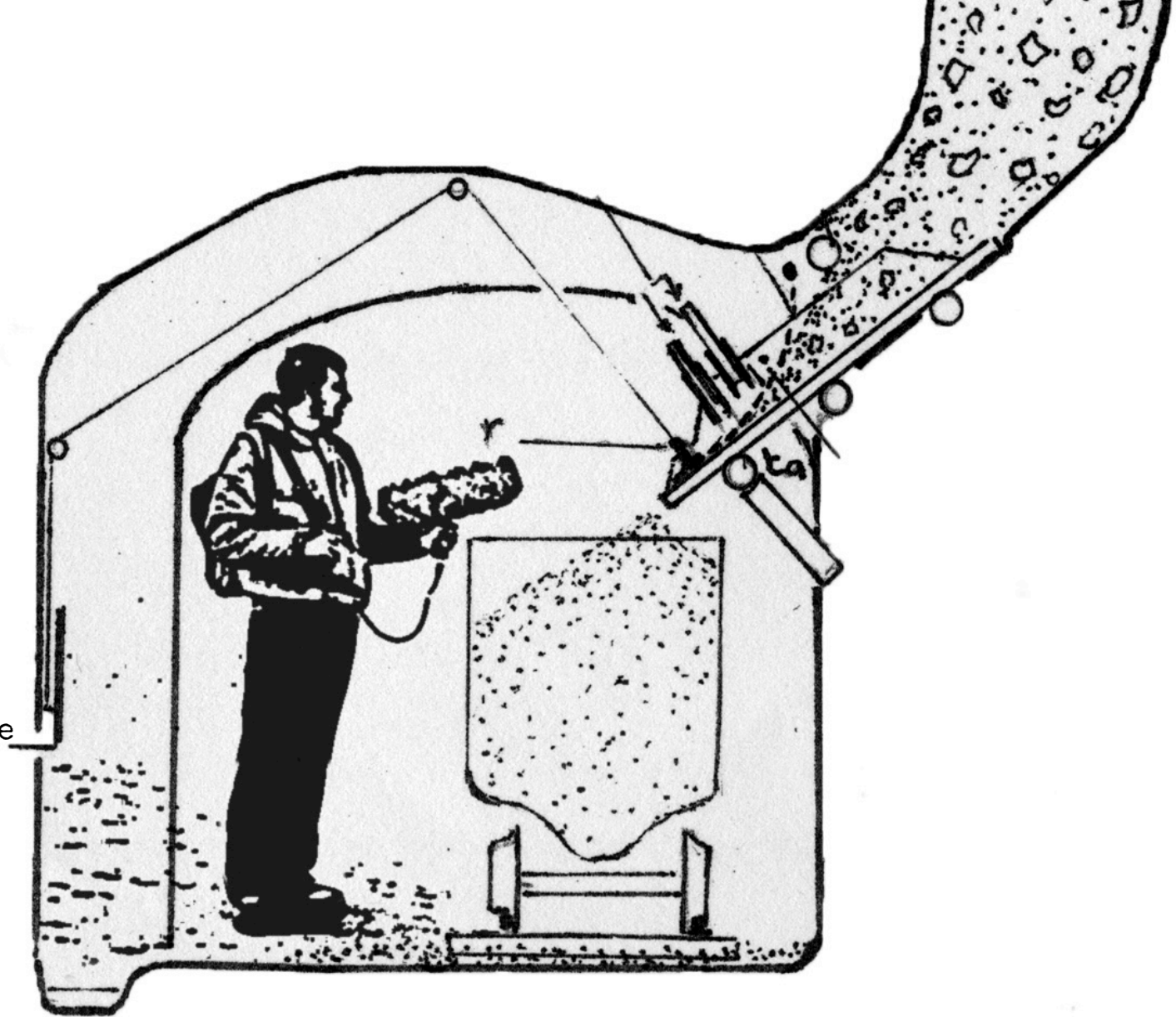
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