

Thrive!

Escape From Extinction?



by
Gary "Chris" Christopherson



Thrive!

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AllThriveForever.org
ThriveEndeavor.org
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Nelson, Wisconsin

University Park, Maryland

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ISBN-13: 978-1545389539

ISBN-10: 1545389535

Dedication

To those who care enough to help build,
achieve and sustain a surviving and thriving
future for all forever.

T![®], Thrive![®], Thrive! Endeavor[®],

All Thrive Forever[®], What will you do?[®]

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Public advocacy to promote awareness of the need
for positive and integrative decision-making in the
fields of public policy, public administration,
healthcare and healthcare reform for the purpose of
creating and sustaining positive change and a
better, thriving future for communities on the local,
state, regional and national levels.

*Earth and space images in this book are derived
from NASA images.*

About the Author

Gary “Chris” Christopherson has written several books. ThriveEndeavor.org

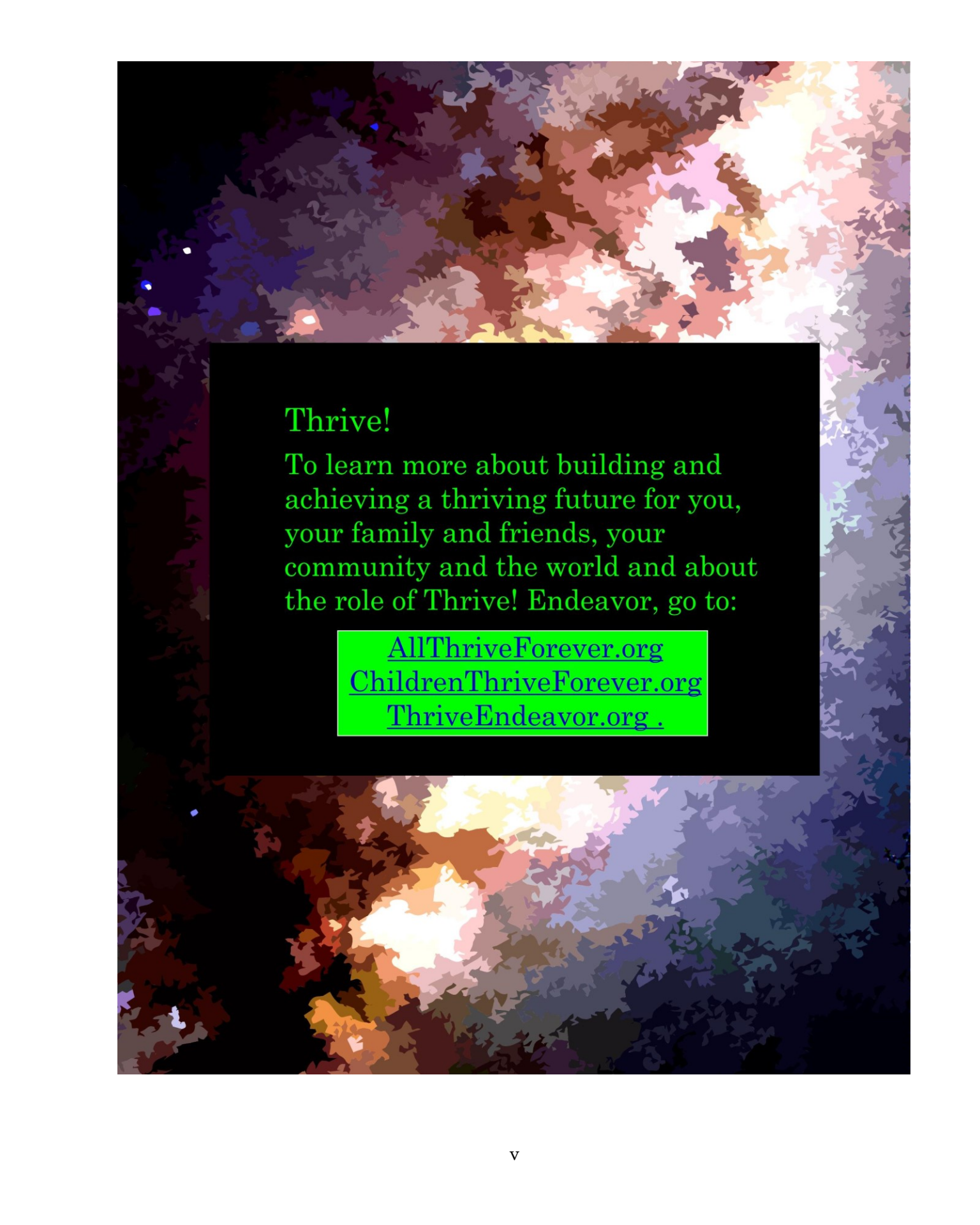
Four are science-fiction novels entitled **Thrive! - Escape from Extinction**, **Extinction - Failure to Thrive**, **black box** and **The Thrive! Endeavor**. Three are children's fiction books entitled **Thrive or Not to Thrive? - Tale of Two Tomorrows**, **Angel - Thriving Creator of Artful Things** and **T!rrific [terrific] -What will you do to thrive?**

Several non-fiction books focus on how to build a better, thriving future, including “manual for positive change” entitled **Thrive! - Building A Thriving Future** and “how-to guide for building a thriving future” entitled **Thrive! - People's Guide To A Thriving Future**.



He created large, positive change as a Senior Executive at Federal and local levels. As Founder of Thrive! and HealthePeople, he currently works to create and sustain positive change and build a better, thriving future. AllThriveForever.org ChildrenThriveForever.org ThriveEndeavor.org

He is a sculptor who created over 150 Thrive! sculptures under the signature “GChris Sculpture”. GChris.com



Thrive!

To learn more about building and achieving a thriving future for you, your family and friends, your community and the world and about the role of Thrive! Endeavor, go to:

AllThriveForever.org
ChildrenThriveForever.org
ThriveEndeavor.org .



The Thrive! Endeavor

GChris

Thrive! Sculpture by GChris

GChris.com

The Thrive! Endeavor

3' x 3' Metal Mobile Sculpture

Join with the Thrive! Endeavor® and together help create and empower a vast, sustained human endeavor building and sustaining thriving and surviving future for all forever.



Prologue

Since the beginning of the universe, we have observed many worlds. Many thrive throughout their existence. Many fail to thrive. Some go extinct.

This is the story of one that stood at the edge of extinction. Can it escape extinction? Can it possibly survive and thrive? Can it do so by its own actions.

This is the story of humans. Their attempt to escape from extinction. Their Thrive! Endeavor. This is the story of Earth.

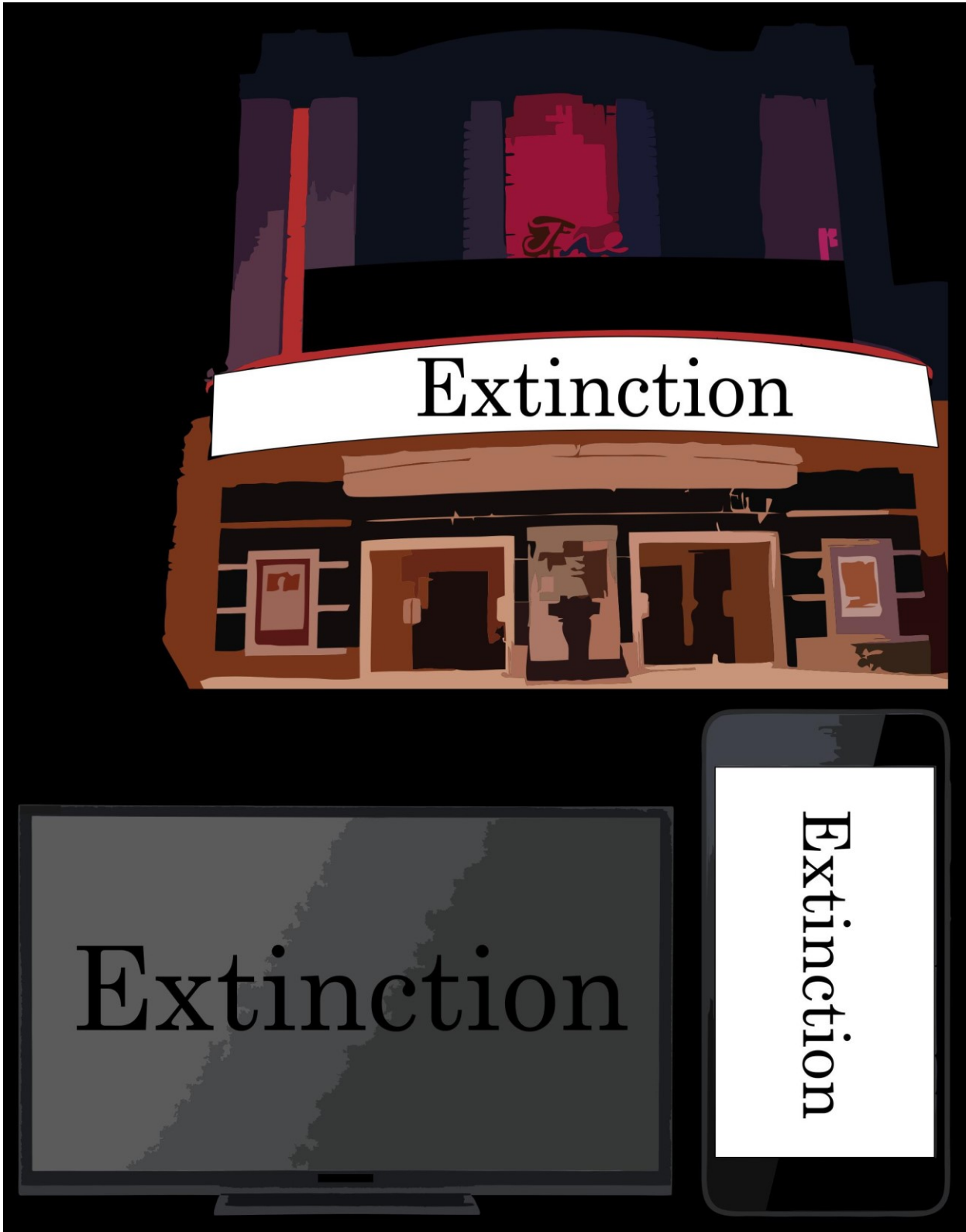
Is this the end? Or the future when all thrive forever?

To thrive or not to thrive?

Heard the rumors across the universe.
A world was dying.
Even in the vast universe, this is a tragedy.
I raced to get to Earth while it still might be saved.
Too late.
..... Then again, maybe not.



T! [*Thrive!*] - space, time traveler who can alter future.





Earth and human extinction!

Since beginning of the universe, we
have observed many worlds.

Many thrive throughout their
existence. Some fail to thrive. Some
go extinct.

This is the story of one that failed.
One that failed by its own actions.

This is the story of humans.

This is the story of Earth.

This is the failure to thrive.

This is extinction.

Earth and human extinction!

In a future far too soon, Earth is dead.

Earth's human species is dead.


Extinction.

Death came not from an external force.

It came from within.

Not from Earth
itself. But from the human species
who inhabited Earth.

Earth and human extinction!



The
End



As the movie Extinction! ends and credits roll, absolute silence. No one says a word. Sobs. Tears. But no words. Just sadness and fear.

From theaters across Earth, people slowly exit not looking at each other. In homes, people look down not looking at each other. By themselves, people sit alone staring at the screen.

No words. Just great sadness. Just deep fear. Emerging anger.

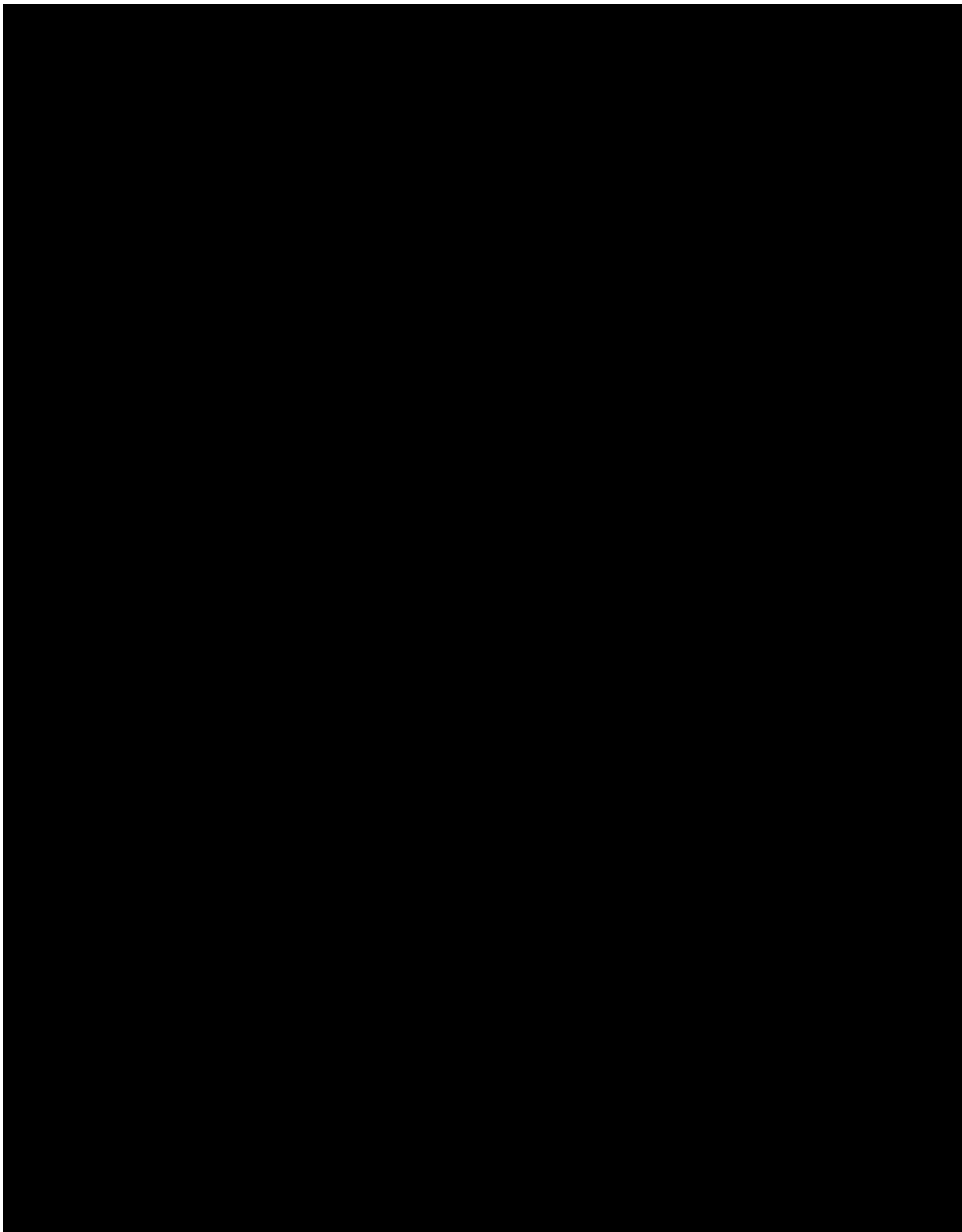
In homes, rooms, and many other places across Earth, people finish and put down the book Extinction!

No words. Just great sadness. Just deep fear. Emerging anger.

This is their future. This is Earth's future. Extinction. This is their failure to thrive.

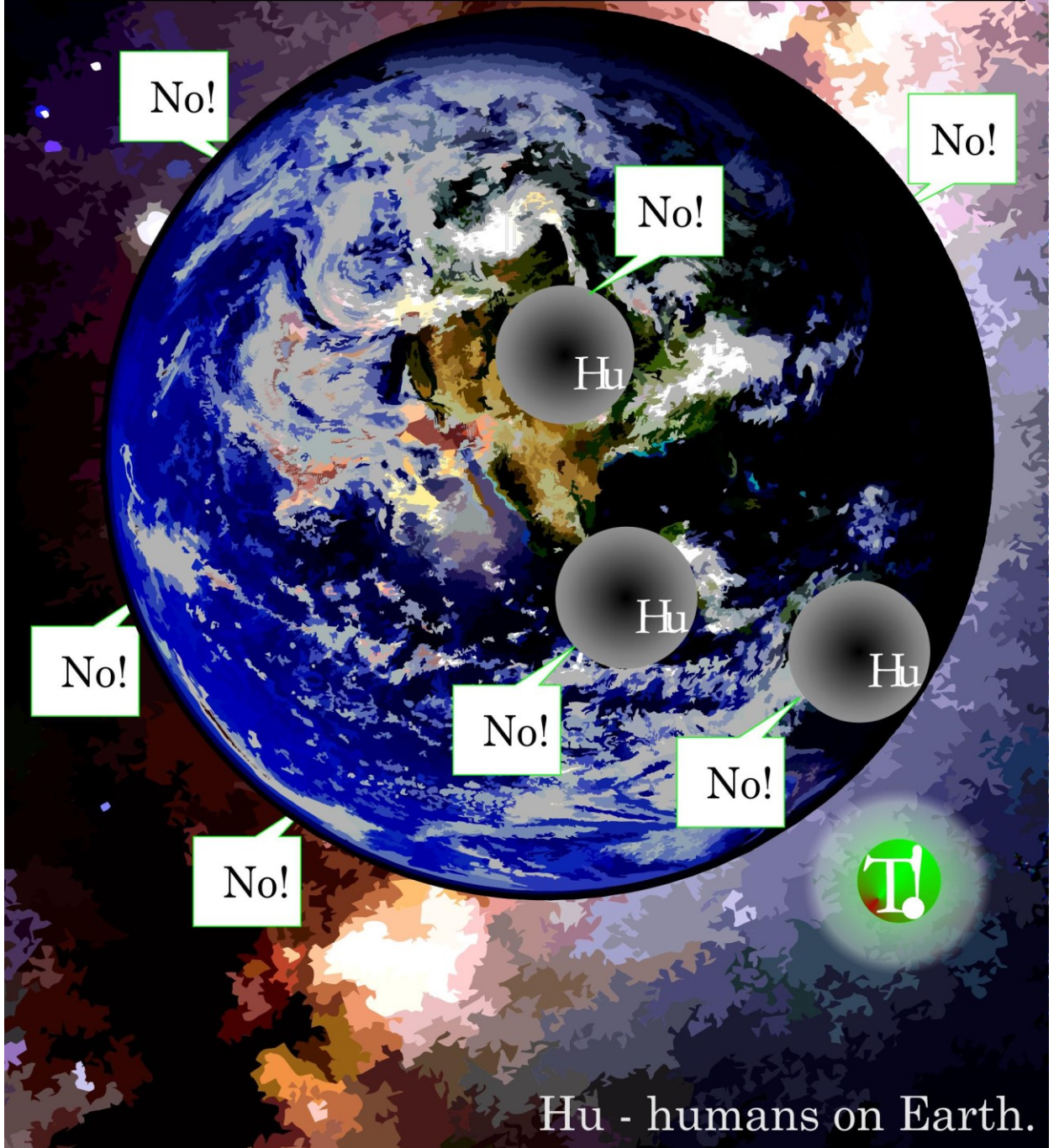
Unless.....



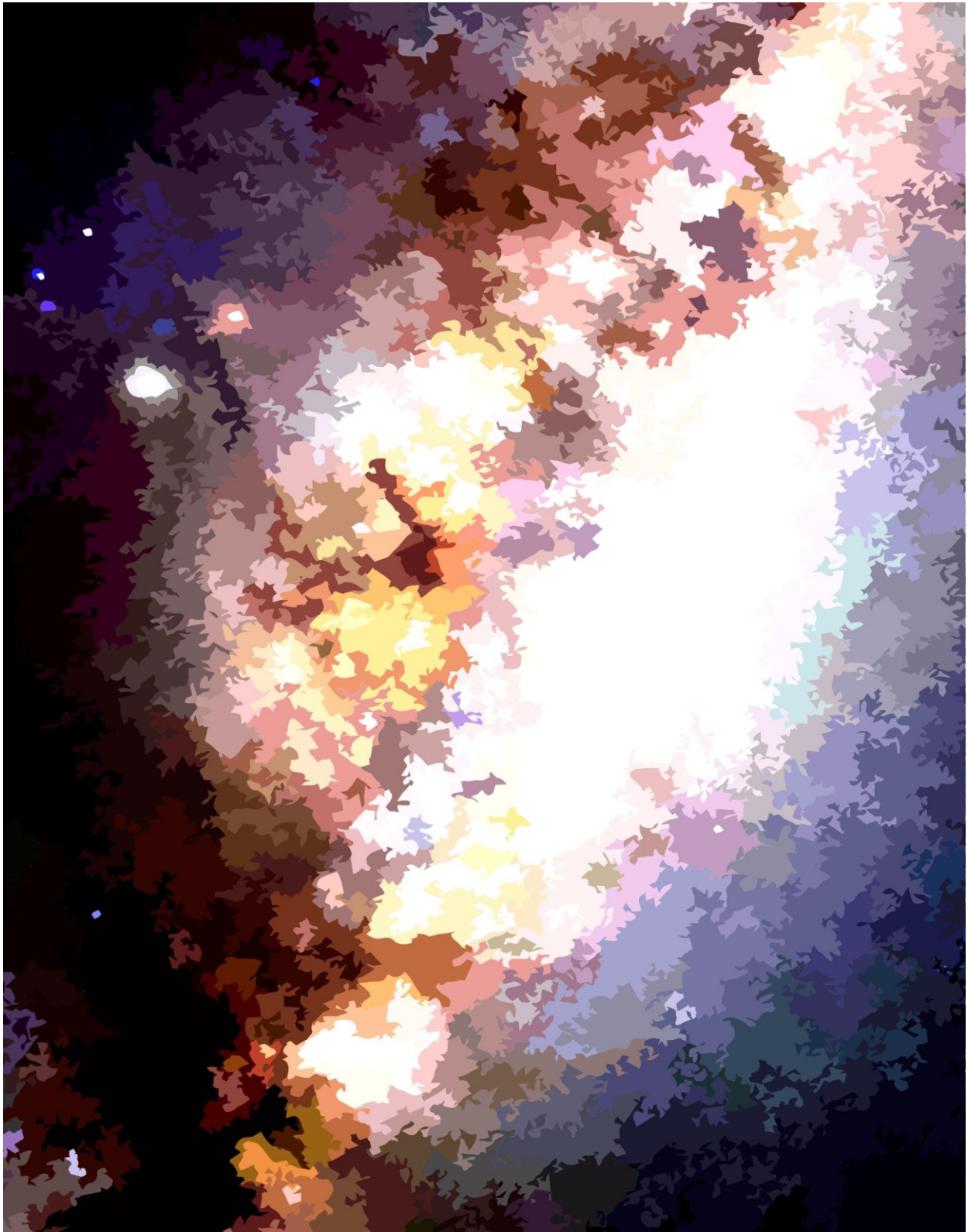


Extinction!

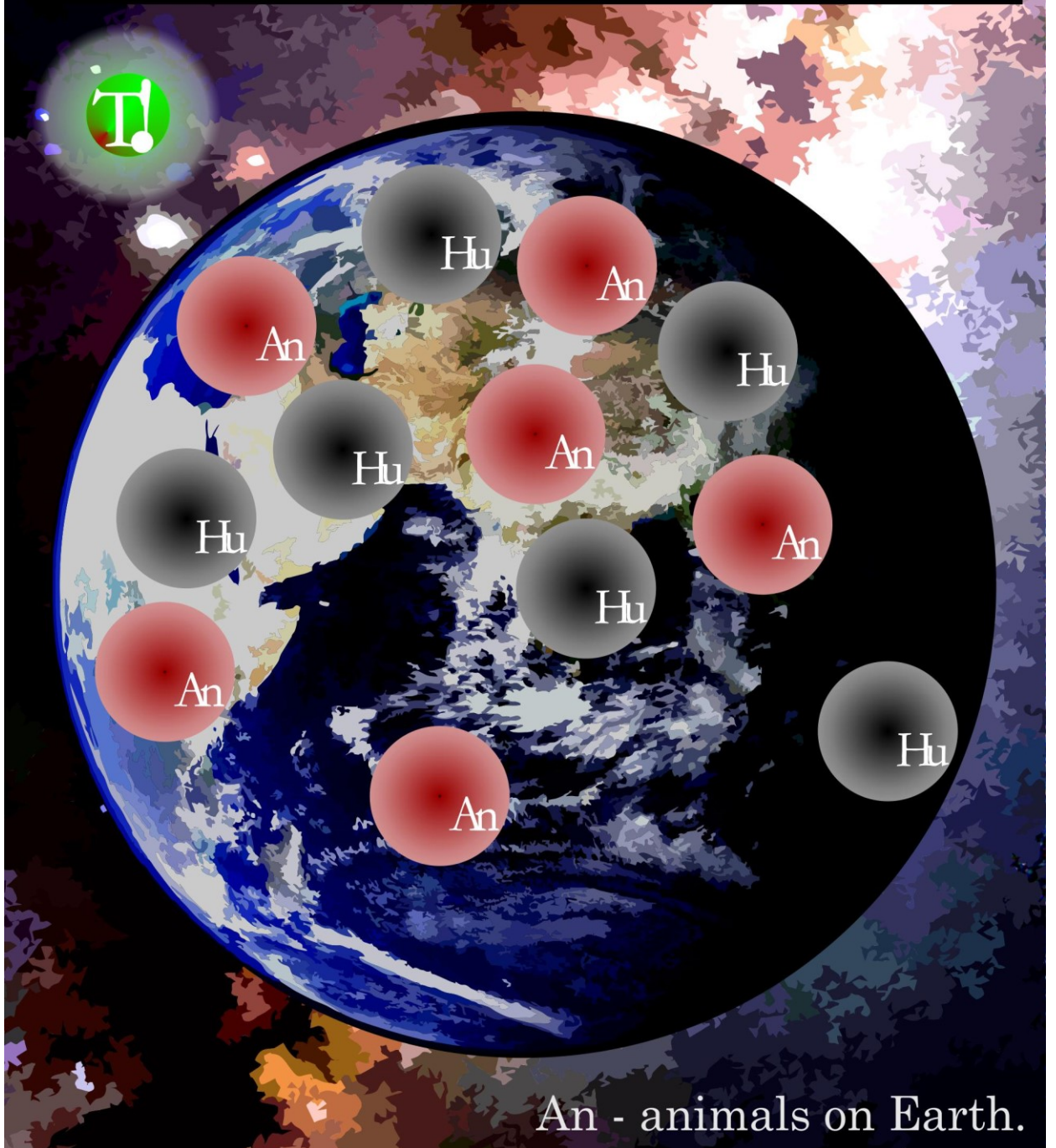
Across Earth, Humans Cry "No!"



Hu - humans on Earth.



Escape From Extinction. Path Back From The Edge.



An - animals on Earth.

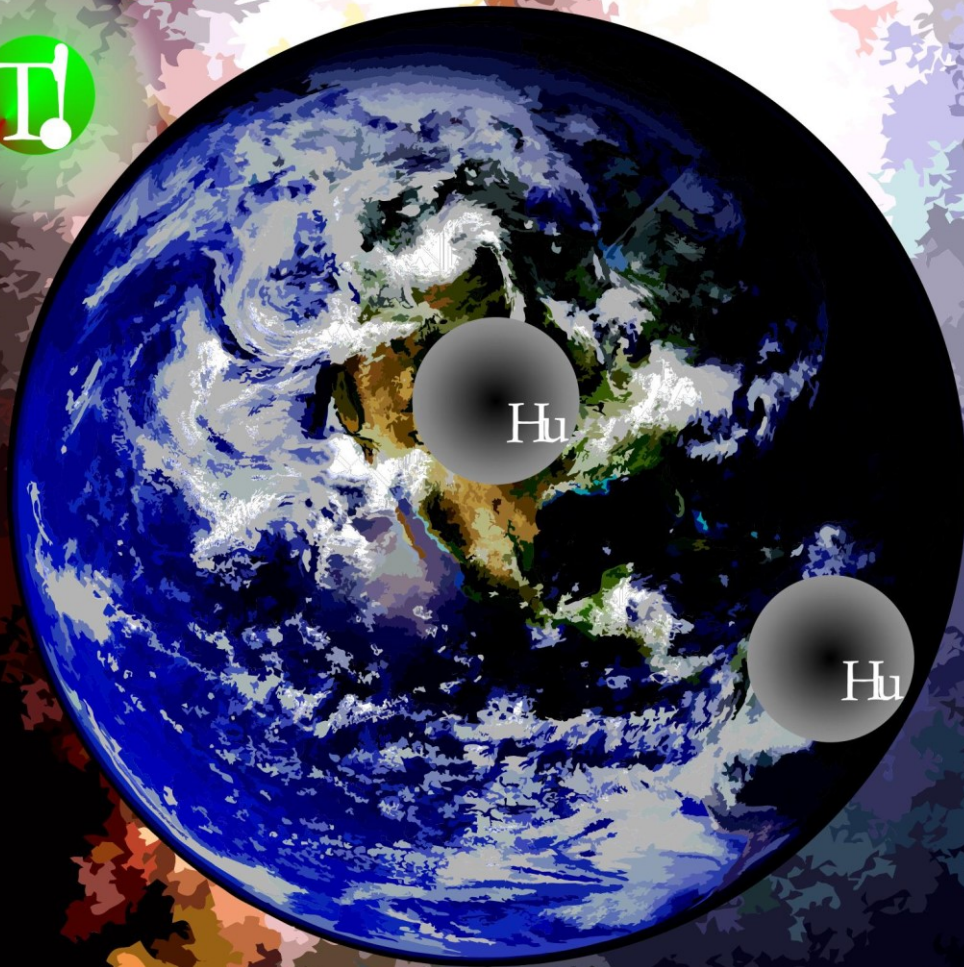
Several thousand years, the human species took control of Earth's future.

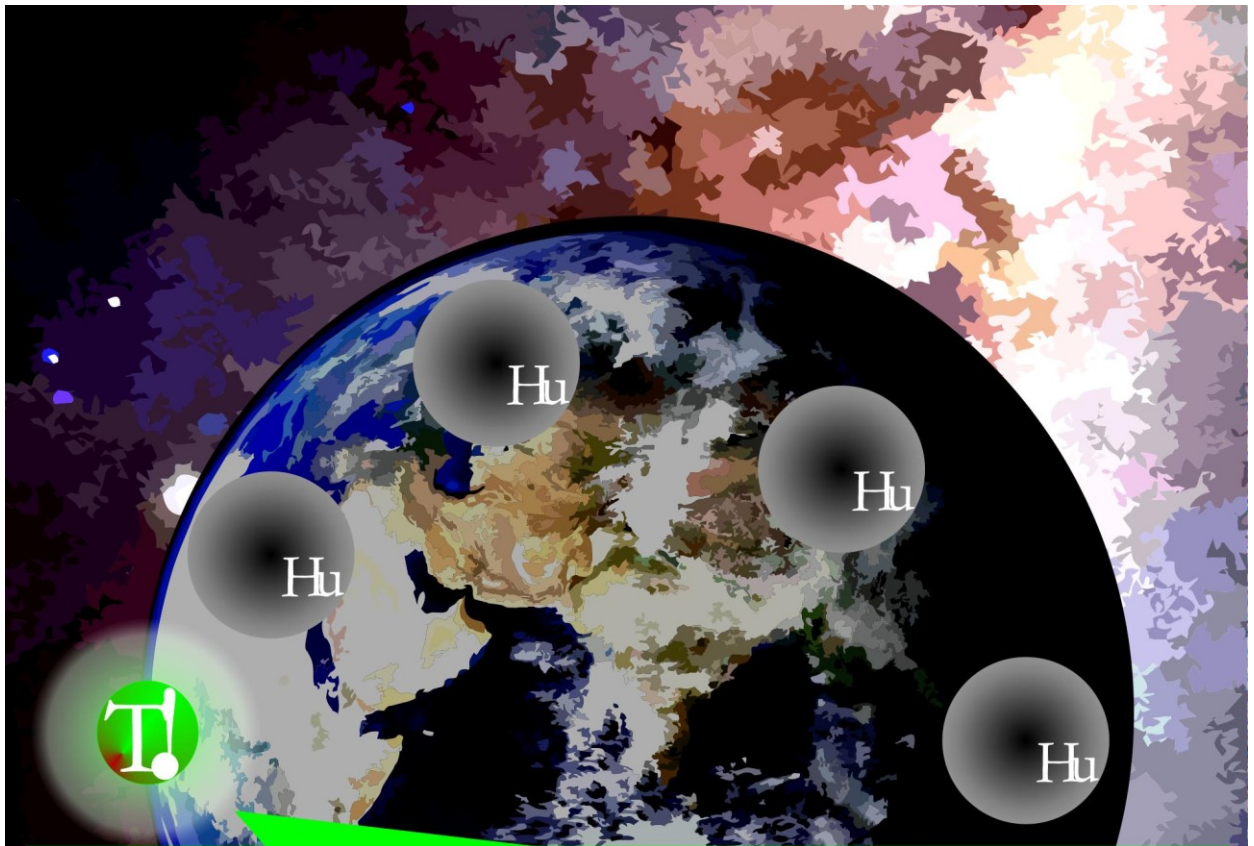
The human species made many mistakes. Many of which threatened their and their Earth's future.

They are at a tipping point when they are the most capable in their history and they are most endangering their and Earth's existence.

Which future do they choose? Which future do they achieve?

Prior to yesterday, their future was extinction and soon.





Previously, a sharp battle ensued between forces for a selfish future and forces for a thriving future. No longer. **Extinction!**, movie and book, changed all that.

Forces for escaping extinction are now strong and aggressive. Their arguments persuasive.

Noted scientists are key to this strength. Study after study produces results saying that the human species and Earth are in great peril unless the future changes. Study after study offer strategies that ensure escaping extinction for the human species and Earth.

International bodies support the studies and argue for avoiding extinction. Agreements are struck that reduce humans negative impact on themselves and Earth. Agreements are struck that lay the path away from extinction. Many nations support and then adopt this escape path.

The future looks less ominous for humans and Earth. But much work remains.

At the edge of extinction, came change. Forces of selfishness lost hold.
Fear lost hold. Disillusionment lost hold. Division lost hold.

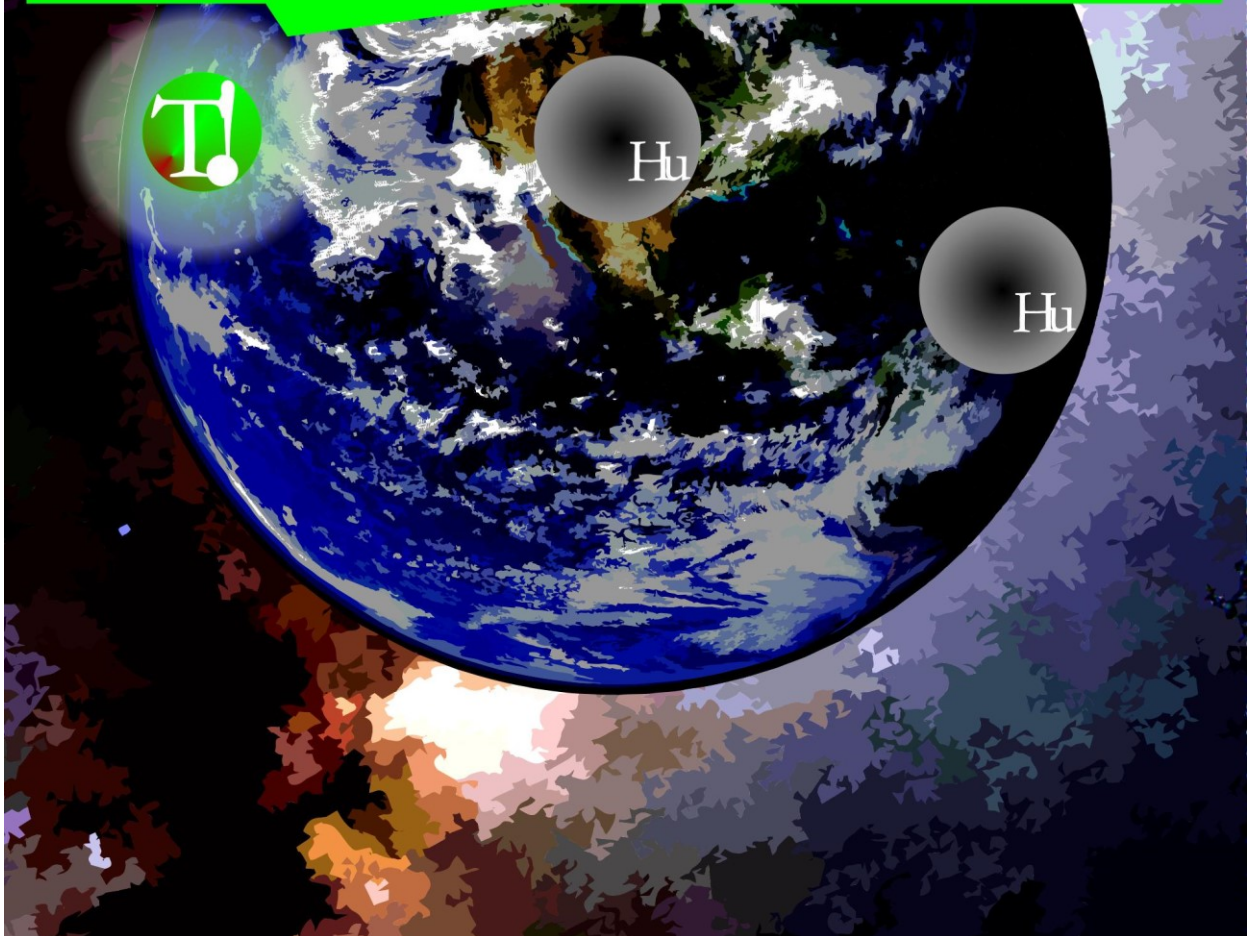
Persuasive arguments are now built on escaping extinction and surviving. Arguments that avoiding extinction be fed by selflessness and community. That Earth's resources be carefully nurtured. That human ingenuity be used to ensure humans and Earth escape extinction.

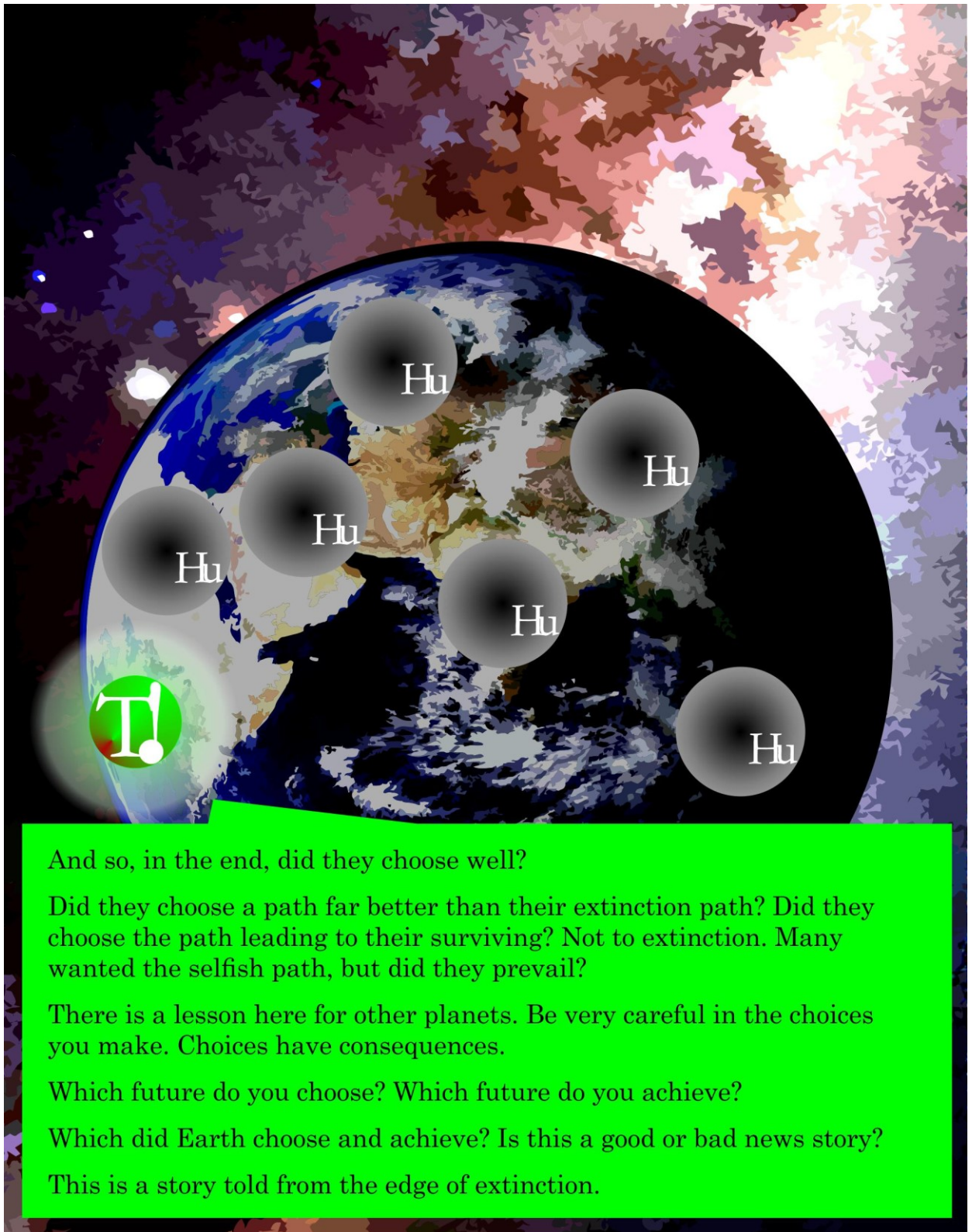
Forces for avoiding extinction start to win more elections in democracies. They rise to power in non-democracies.

Scientists are embraced. Scientific studies are followed.

Facts matter. All agree that we must escape extinction. But how?

Much better than the old future path, this new path could be the path for avoiding extinction and ensuring survival for humans and Earth.





And so, in the end, did they choose well?

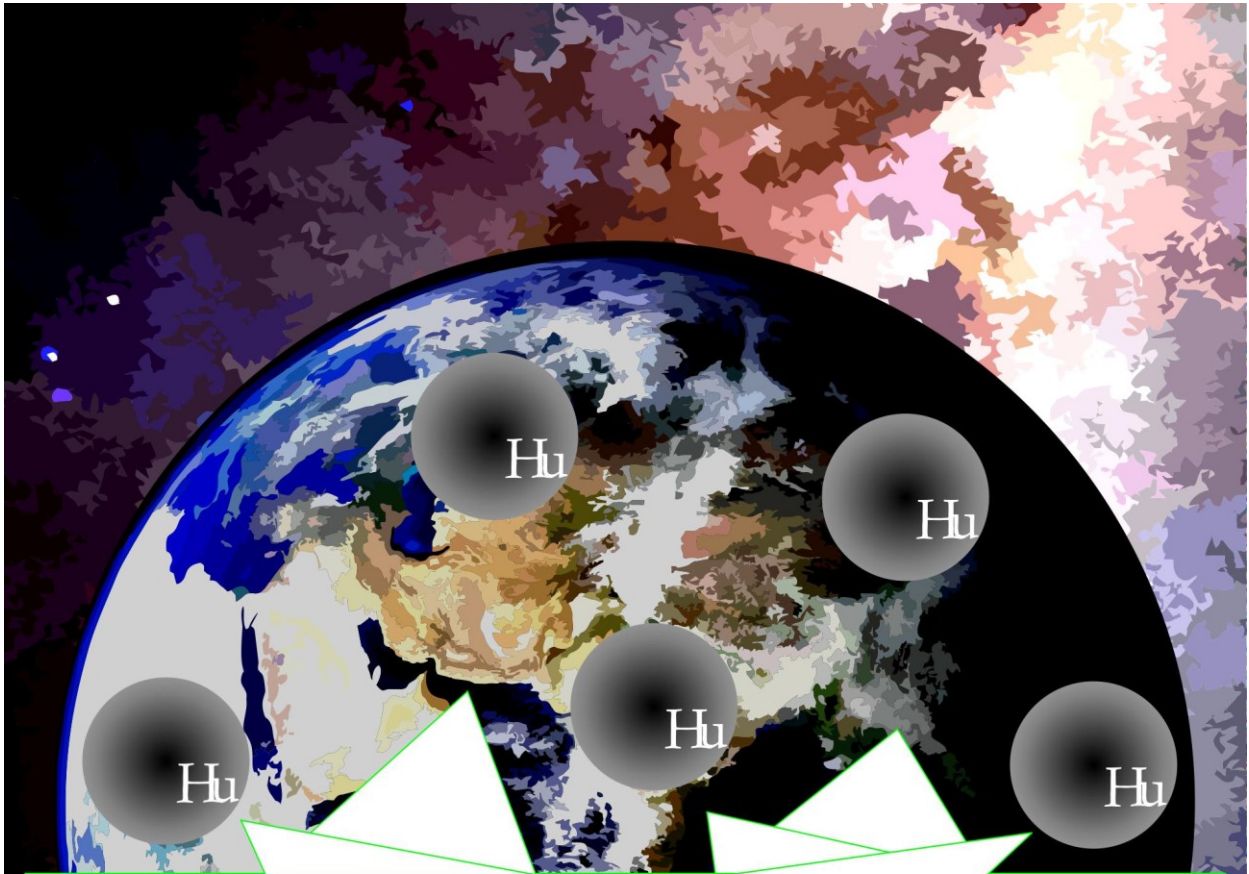
Did they choose a path far better than their extinction path? Did they choose the path leading to their surviving? Not to extinction. Many wanted the selfish path, but did they prevail?

There is a lesson here for other planets. Be very careful in the choices you make. Choices have consequences.

Which future do you choose? Which future do you achieve?

Which did Earth choose and achieve? Is this a good or bad news story?

This is a story told from the edge of extinction.



We finally scared Earth.

Like Earth realized its death was coming. Our death was coming.

Understanding more than the humans on it, it knew death was imminent.

Earth was giving up on humans. It almost gave up completely.

It had begun to wither. It had begun to die. Not slowly as humans thought. But quickly. Very quickly.

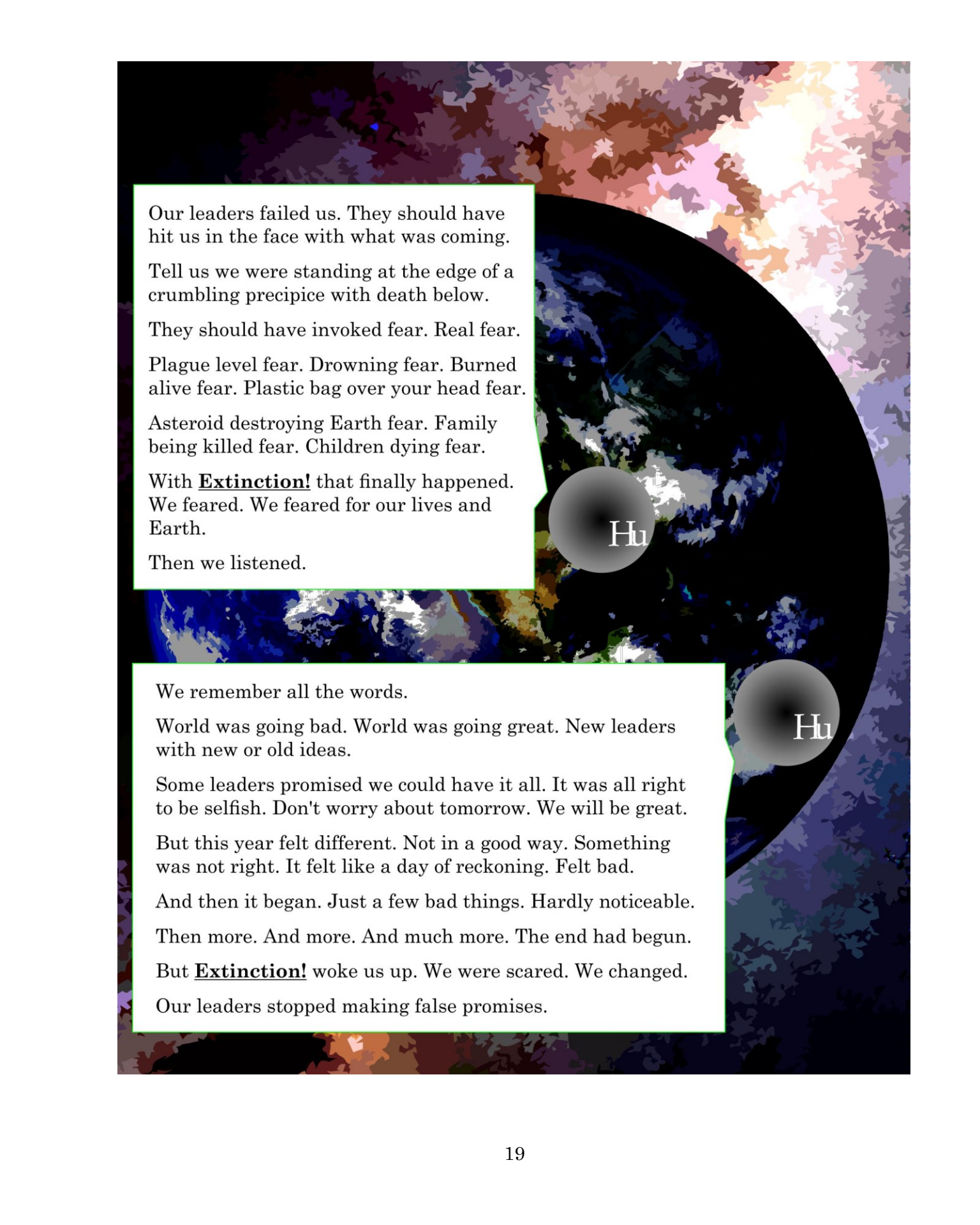
Too quickly for humans to seek or find a new home. Another planet. Too quickly to escape.

It was if Earth decided we didn't deserve another planet. And we didn't.

A species should never get the chance to destroy two planets. Destroying one is already one too many.

But Earth would maybe be kind. Maybe be forgiving.

Earth would maybe give us just one more chance. Not that we deserved it.



Our leaders failed us. They should have hit us in the face with what was coming.

Tell us we were standing at the edge of a crumbling precipice with death below.

They should have invoked fear. Real fear.

Plague level fear. Drowning fear. Burned alive fear. Plastic bag over your head fear.

Asteroid destroying Earth fear. Family being killed fear. Children dying fear.

With **Extinction!** that finally happened. We feared. We feared for our lives and Earth.

Then we listened.

We remember all the words.

World was going bad. World was going great. New leaders with new or old ideas.

Some leaders promised we could have it all. It was all right to be selfish. Don't worry about tomorrow. We will be great.

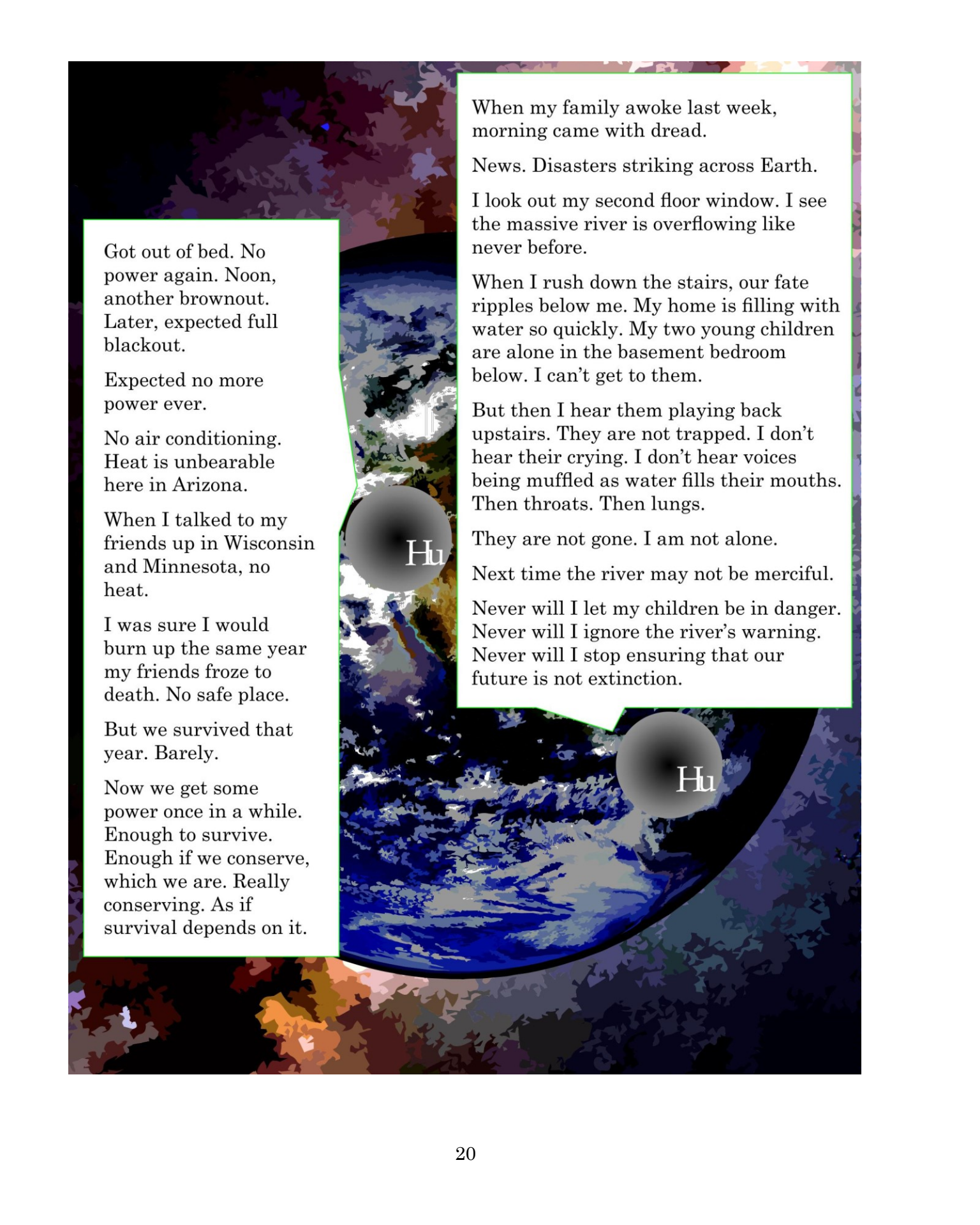
But this year felt different. Not in a good way. Something was not right. It felt like a day of reckoning. Felt bad.

And then it began. Just a few bad things. Hardly noticeable.

Then more. And more. And much more. The end had begun.

But **Extinction!** woke us up. We were scared. We changed.

Our leaders stopped making false promises.



Got out of bed. No power again. Noon, another brownout. Later, expected full blackout.

Expected no more power ever.

No air conditioning. Heat is unbearable here in Arizona.

When I talked to my friends up in Wisconsin and Minnesota, no heat.

I was sure I would burn up the same year my friends froze to death. No safe place.

But we survived that year. Barely.

Now we get some power once in a while. Enough to survive. Enough if we conserve, which we are. Really conserving. As if survival depends on it.

When my family awoke last week, morning came with dread.

News. Disasters striking across Earth.

I look out my second floor window. I see the massive river is overflowing like never before.

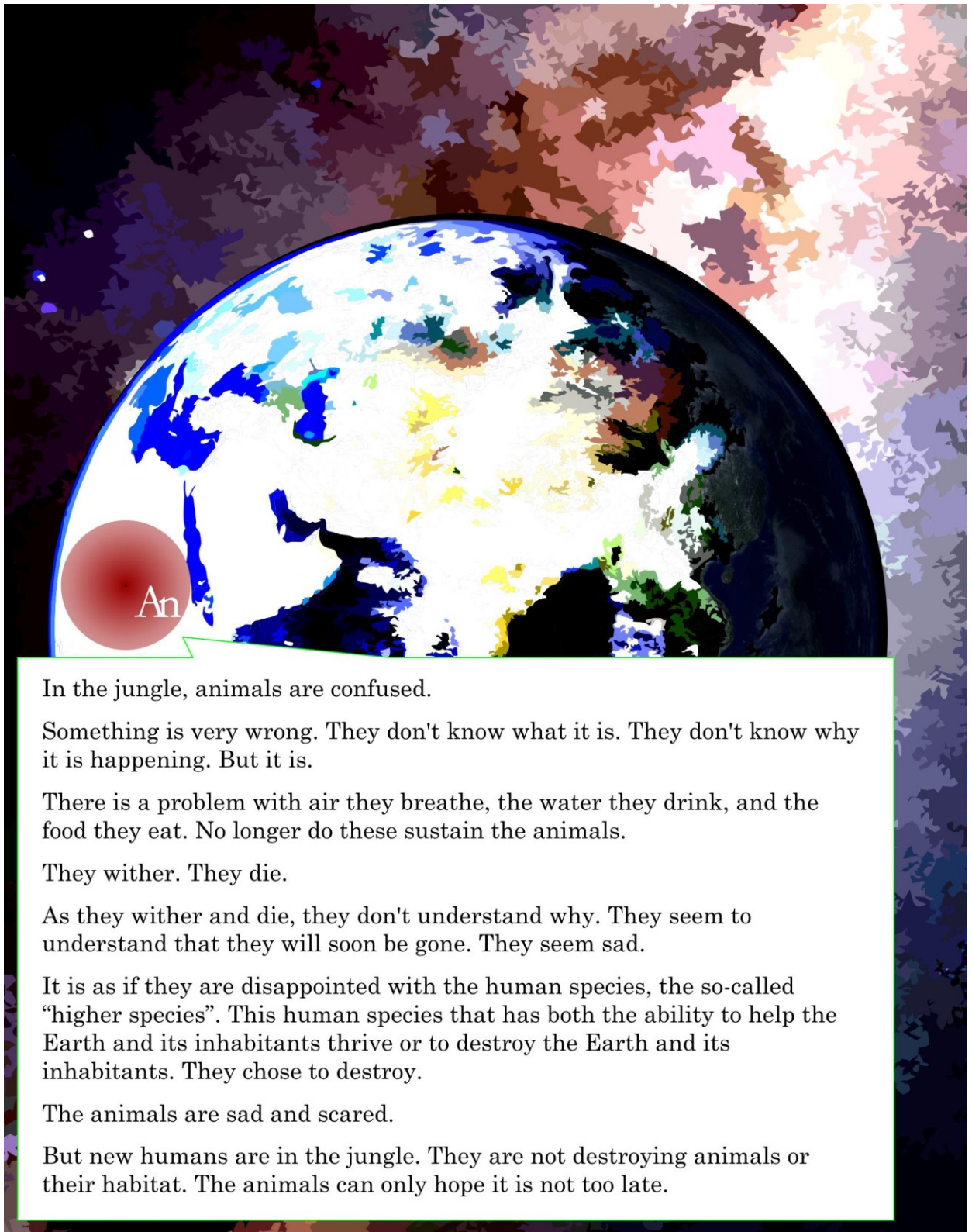
When I rush down the stairs, our fate ripples below me. My home is filling with water so quickly. My two young children are alone in the basement bedroom below. I can't get to them.

But then I hear them playing back upstairs. They are not trapped. I don't hear their crying. I don't hear voices being muffled as water fills their mouths. Then throats. Then lungs.

They are not gone. I am not alone.

Next time the river may not be merciful.

Never will I let my children be in danger. Never will I ignore the river's warning. Never will I stop ensuring that our future is not extinction.



In the jungle, animals are confused.

Something is very wrong. They don't know what it is. They don't know why it is happening. But it is.

There is a problem with air they breathe, the water they drink, and the food they eat. No longer do these sustain the animals.

They wither. They die.

As they wither and die, they don't understand why. They seem to understand that they will soon be gone. They seem sad.

It is as if they are disappointed with the human species, the so-called "higher species". This human species that has both the ability to help the Earth and its inhabitants thrive or to destroy the Earth and its inhabitants. They chose to destroy.

The animals are sad and scared.

But new humans are in the jungle. They are not destroying animals or their habitat. The animals can only hope it is not too late.

Their heads against the silent barn, the black-spotted cows softly moo. Their moos becoming less frequent and softer. They are dying.

No rain. No grass in the pasture. No hay from the barn.

They come to the barn for food as they slowly starve. They fear.

Where is the farmer? For weeks, the farmer has not come to feed them. Not come to milk them.

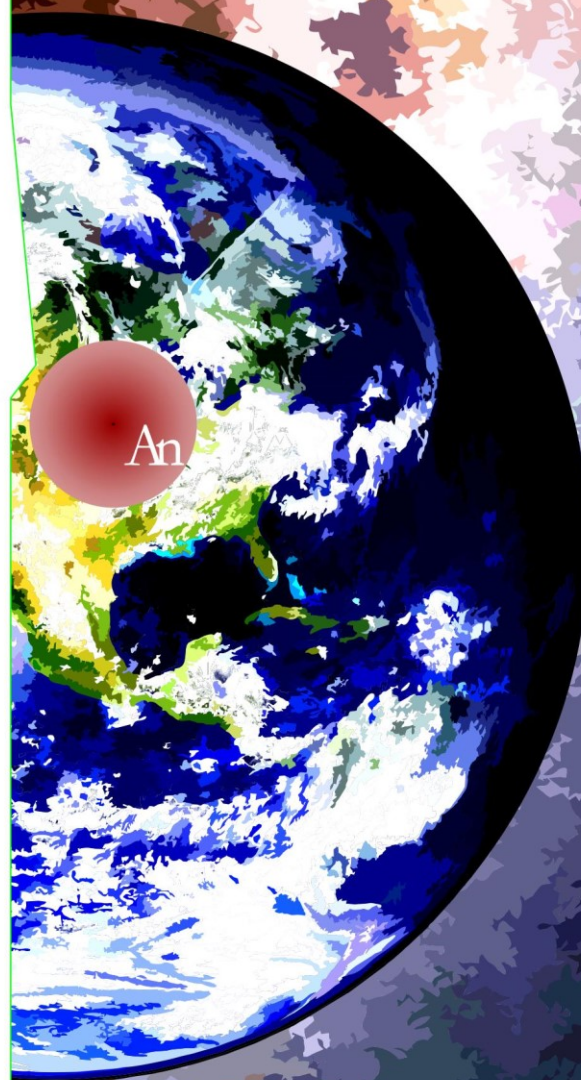
Though there is no milk because there is no feed.

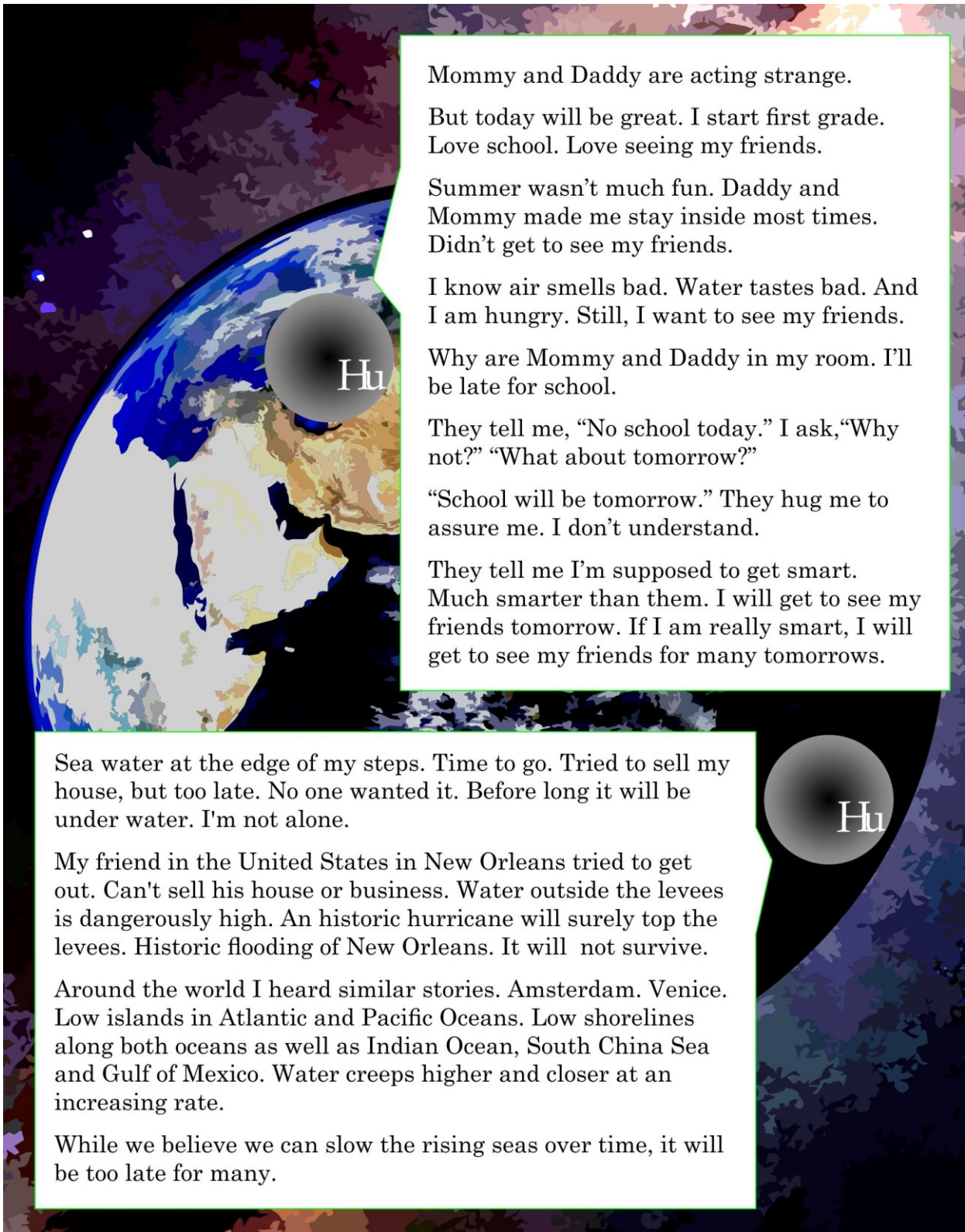
They vaguely remember the farmer, after opening all the gates, walking sadly toward the farmhouse. The farmer's family was on the porch, also sad. They held each other. They went inside.

Then there was silence. A day passed. Would there be no more food?

Would be a slow death for the softly mooing cows?

Then the farmer comes out of the farmhouse and walks toward the softly mooing cows. Still looks very sad.





Mommy and Daddy are acting strange.

But today will be great. I start first grade.
Love school. Love seeing my friends.

Summer wasn't much fun. Daddy and
Mommy made me stay inside most times.
Didn't get to see my friends.

I know air smells bad. Water tastes bad. And
I am hungry. Still, I want to see my friends.

Why are Mommy and Daddy in my room. I'll
be late for school.

They tell me, "No school today." I ask, "Why
not?" "What about tomorrow?"

"School will be tomorrow." They hug me to
assure me. I don't understand.

They tell me I'm supposed to get smart.
Much smarter than them. I will get to see my
friends tomorrow. If I am really smart, I will
get to see my friends for many tomorrows.

Sea water at the edge of my steps. Time to go. Tried to sell my
house, but too late. No one wanted it. Before long it will be
under water. I'm not alone.

My friend in the United States in New Orleans tried to get
out. Can't sell his house or business. Water outside the levees
is dangerously high. An historic hurricane will surely top the
levees. Historic flooding of New Orleans. It will not survive.

Around the world I heard similar stories. Amsterdam. Venice.
Low islands in Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. Low shorelines
along both oceans as well as Indian Ocean, South China Sea
and Gulf of Mexico. Water creeps higher and closer at an
increasing rate.

While we believe we can slow the rising seas over time, it will
be too late for many.

Last year, there were rumors food was scarce. We had nothing left.

Quick to the market. Met by people pale with despair. No food. Maybe tomorrow.

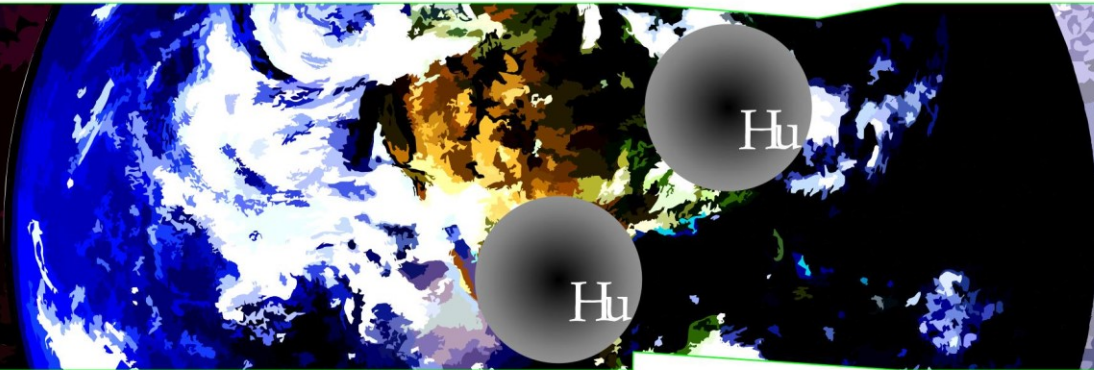
Too many people. Too little food. Today hunger. Tomorrow starvation will rob many bodies of life.

I envisioned my dying child lying in my arms. Nothing I could do. I envisioned my husband also close to death. His breaths fewer and fewer. My eyes closing.

I wake from the nightmare. I'm still alive.

Still too many people on Earth. Still too little food. Many will still starve.

But now we must change. We must not have more children than Earth can support. We must not waste precious water and food. We must not waste land that will grow precious food when carefully nurtured.



Months ago, I remember going out to see if I could get some food. Knew I was unlikely to find any even if I could make it to the store. But I couldn't.

Hungry, angry people roamed streets looking for what they could get to survive.

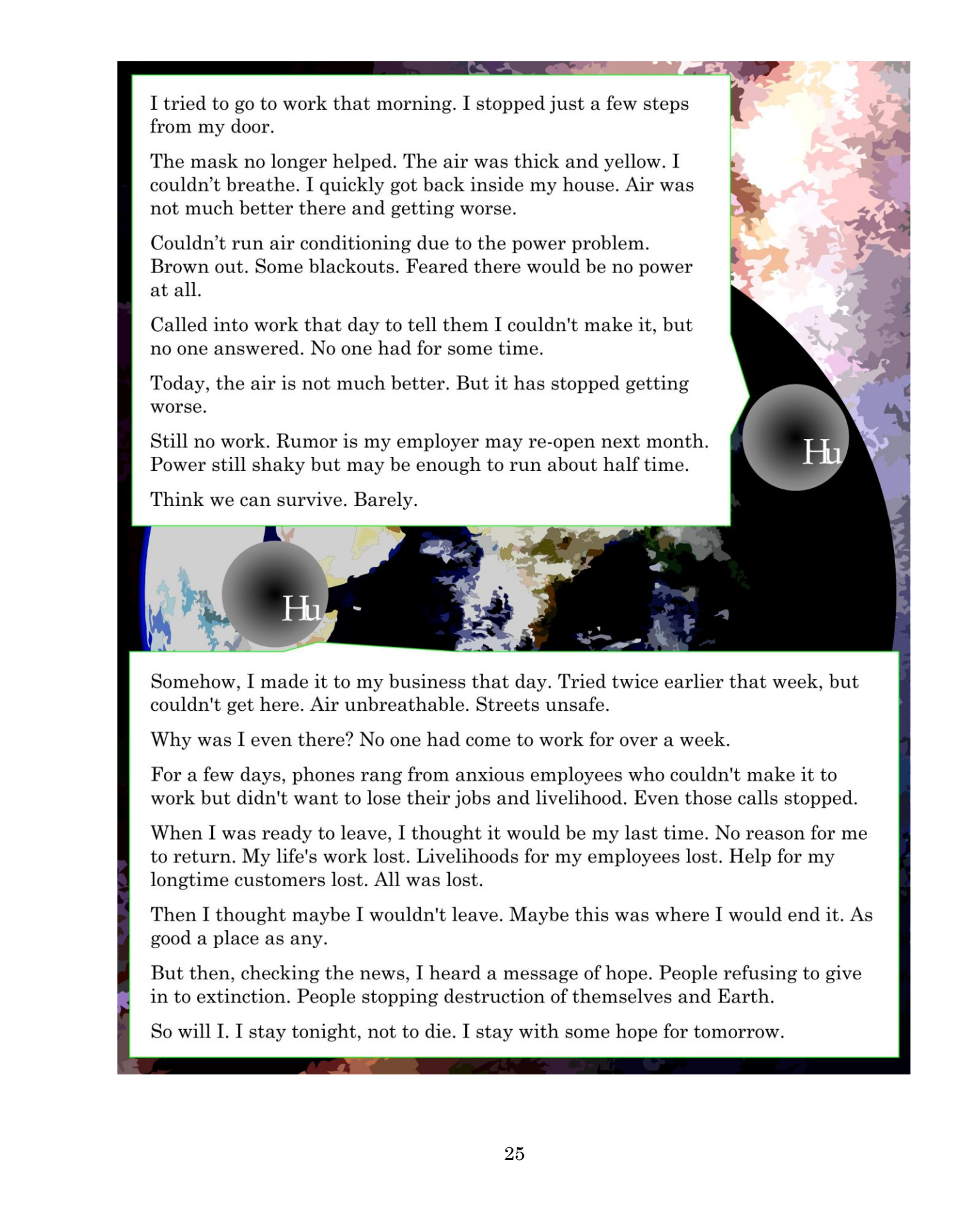
No longer was there a sense of community. No longer did we have friends. No longer were we safe to leave our homes.

But homes were no longer safe. That night, I saw a man and a woman break into my neighbor's home across the street. Screams. Then silence.

Out on the street were two young children watching as their desperate parents sought to find food for their starving children. They found death but no food. They moved on to another house. The two children followed silently.

Now somewhat safe to go outside during the day. Must be careful.

Home break-ins occur but with just a bit less desperation and violence than months ago.



I tried to go to work that morning. I stopped just a few steps from my door.

The mask no longer helped. The air was thick and yellow. I couldn't breathe. I quickly got back inside my house. Air was not much better there and getting worse.

Couldn't run air conditioning due to the power problem. Brown out. Some blackouts. Feared there would be no power at all.

Called into work that day to tell them I couldn't make it, but no one answered. No one had for some time.

Today, the air is not much better. But it has stopped getting worse.

Still no work. Rumor is my employer may re-open next month. Power still shaky but may be enough to run about half time.

Think we can survive. Barely.

Somehow, I made it to my business that day. Tried twice earlier that week, but couldn't get here. Air unbreathable. Streets unsafe.

Why was I even there? No one had come to work for over a week.

For a few days, phones rang from anxious employees who couldn't make it to work but didn't want to lose their jobs and livelihood. Even those calls stopped.

When I was ready to leave, I thought it would be my last time. No reason for me to return. My life's work lost. Livelihoods for my employees lost. Help for my longtime customers lost. All was lost.

Then I thought maybe I wouldn't leave. Maybe this was where I would end it. As good a place as any.

But then, checking the news, I heard a message of hope. People refusing to give in to extinction. People stopping destruction of themselves and Earth.

So will I. I stay tonight, not to die. I stay with some hope for tomorrow.



Images from Greenland, Arctic and Antarctica tell the foreboding story. Ice still melting well above rates in recorded history. Glaciers and ice shelves melting and breaking off way beyond anything ever seen before.

Result. Ocean waters rising rapidly. Many, many icebergs hampering ocean travel. Ships and people lost.

Back then it was almost midnight here in the middle of the north Atlantic. We had assurances it would be a safe crossing.

As I stood on the open deck, I vaguely saw many large spots of white in the dark night. Icebergs. Couldn't be. Not that many.

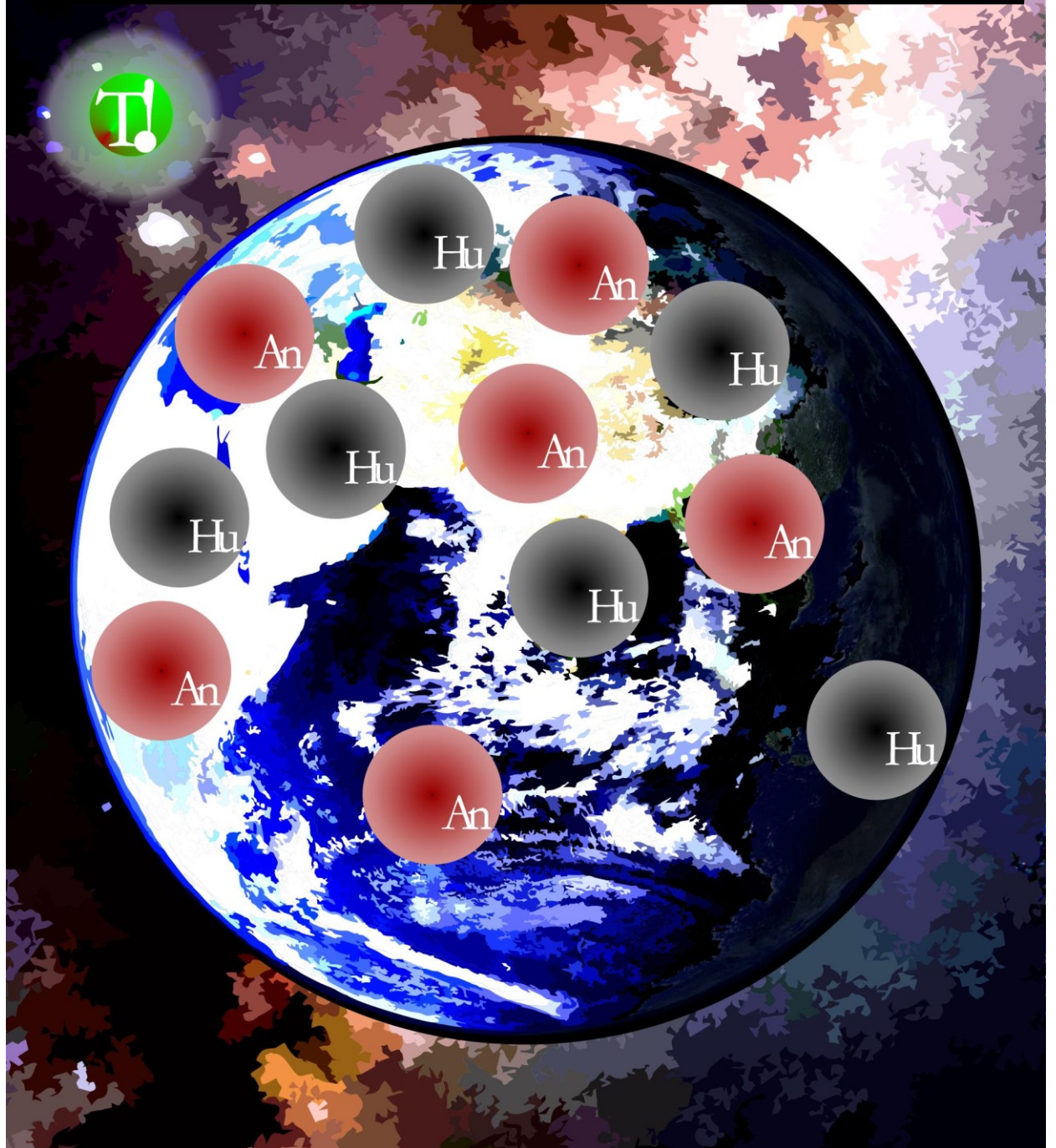
Then a thud as we bumped up against one barely sticking out of the ocean. Then another. Then the word that the sensors stopped working. But the Captain kept going. Trying to make it across the huge field of icebergs.

More thuds. Much louder.

The ship stopped. Almost too late. Two large icebergs just below the water line pinched the ship's hull. Yards further and icebergs would have ripped the hull on both sides. Water would have rushed in. Too quickly to abandon ship. The ship would have sunk so terribly quickly. No chance to save anyone. No chance in the icy waters. Cold, so terribly cold.

But we stopped in time. Barely. We survived. Barely.

Thrive! Endeavor Begins. Path To Thriving Future.



The Thrive! Endeavor

Extinction! Vulnerable! Survive! Thrive! These are keys to our call for creating and sustaining large, positive and timely change and building a surviving and thriving future. We are all vulnerable to some extent but that can change for the better. Thrive! is a call to action and a rallying cry for a better future. It is a vision and a mission for wanting and needing to build a better future. It is avoiding extinction.

To escape extinction and thrive, the Thrive! Endeavor, all of us together, strives to energize and empower all of us to build a thriving future for every person and for our families and friends, communities, countries and world.

Only all of us together can succeed due to the scope (all), level (surviving and thriving), duration (forever) of the challenge. “All of us together” includes individual people, groups of people, private sector organizations and governments. “All of us together” includes current and future generations. “All of us together” includes every person, every person’s family and friends, every community, every country, and every part of and our entire world.

To succeed, each and all of us must take as many positive actions as we can. The more positive actions taken, the better for all of us. Via these actions and the Endeavor, each and all of us together can and will build this future.

If and when successful, we and all future generations will achieve the surviving and thriving future for all forever. At this time in human history, when we our future is endangered and we face extinction. When we desire to thrive and need to survive. When we are most capable. The Thrive! Endeavor, all of us together, can and must build, achieve and sustain this thriving future for all forever.

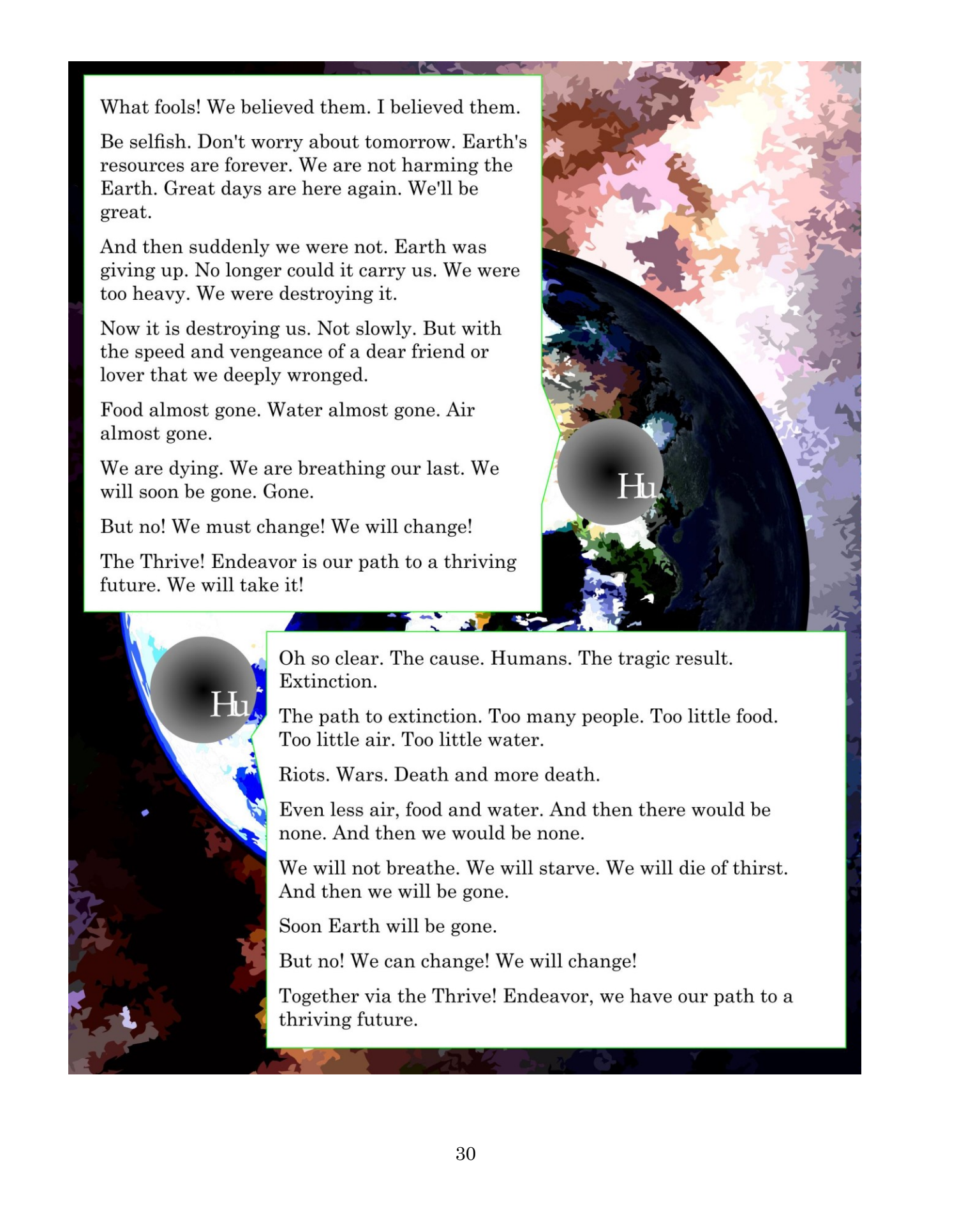
Scared by **Extinction!** Determined to escape extinction!
Humans worldwide launch the Thrive! Endeavor.

The Thrive! Endeavor® (TE!), a joint endeavor spanning
Earth, is people of all backgrounds and generations together
to escape extinction and build a thriving future.

Thrive!® is building, achieving and sustaining a surviving and
thriving future for all forever.

Humans new vision is “all thrive forever.”





What fools! We believed them. I believed them.
Be selfish. Don't worry about tomorrow. Earth's
resources are forever. We are not harming the
Earth. Great days are here again. We'll be
great.

And then suddenly we were not. Earth was
giving up. No longer could it carry us. We were
too heavy. We were destroying it.

Now it is destroying us. Not slowly. But with
the speed and vengeance of a dear friend or
lover that we deeply wronged.

Food almost gone. Water almost gone. Air
almost gone.

We are dying. We are breathing our last. We
will soon be gone. Gone.

But no! We must change! We will change!

The Thrive! Endeavor is our path to a thriving
future. We will take it!

Oh so clear. The cause. Humans. The tragic result.
Extinction.

The path to extinction. Too many people. Too little food.
Too little air. Too little water.

Riots. Wars. Death and more death.

Even less air, food and water. And then there would be
none. And then we would be none.

We will not breathe. We will starve. We will die of thirst.
And then we will be gone.

Soon Earth will be gone.

But no! We can change! We will change!

Together via the Thrive! Endeavor, we have our path to a
thriving future.

We emerge from our homes scared and resolute.

Avoid extinction at all costs. Achieve Thrive!
Use the Thrive! Endeavor as our only hope.

Our first step. We turn to each other. Not as strangers. Not as enemies. But as each other's hope. None of us can do it alone. We may be able to do it by joining together.

Conversations begin between friends and strangers. We share our fears. We share our aspirations. We share our common mission.

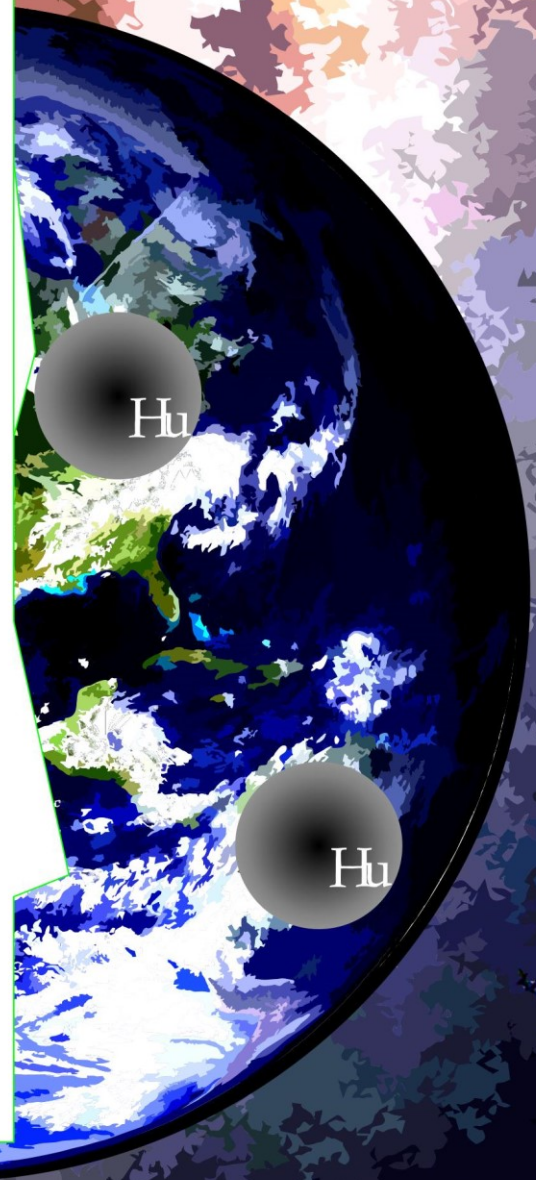
None of us are sure we trust our governments to change. They were major factors in where we are today. But we also know that governments often reflect the people governed.

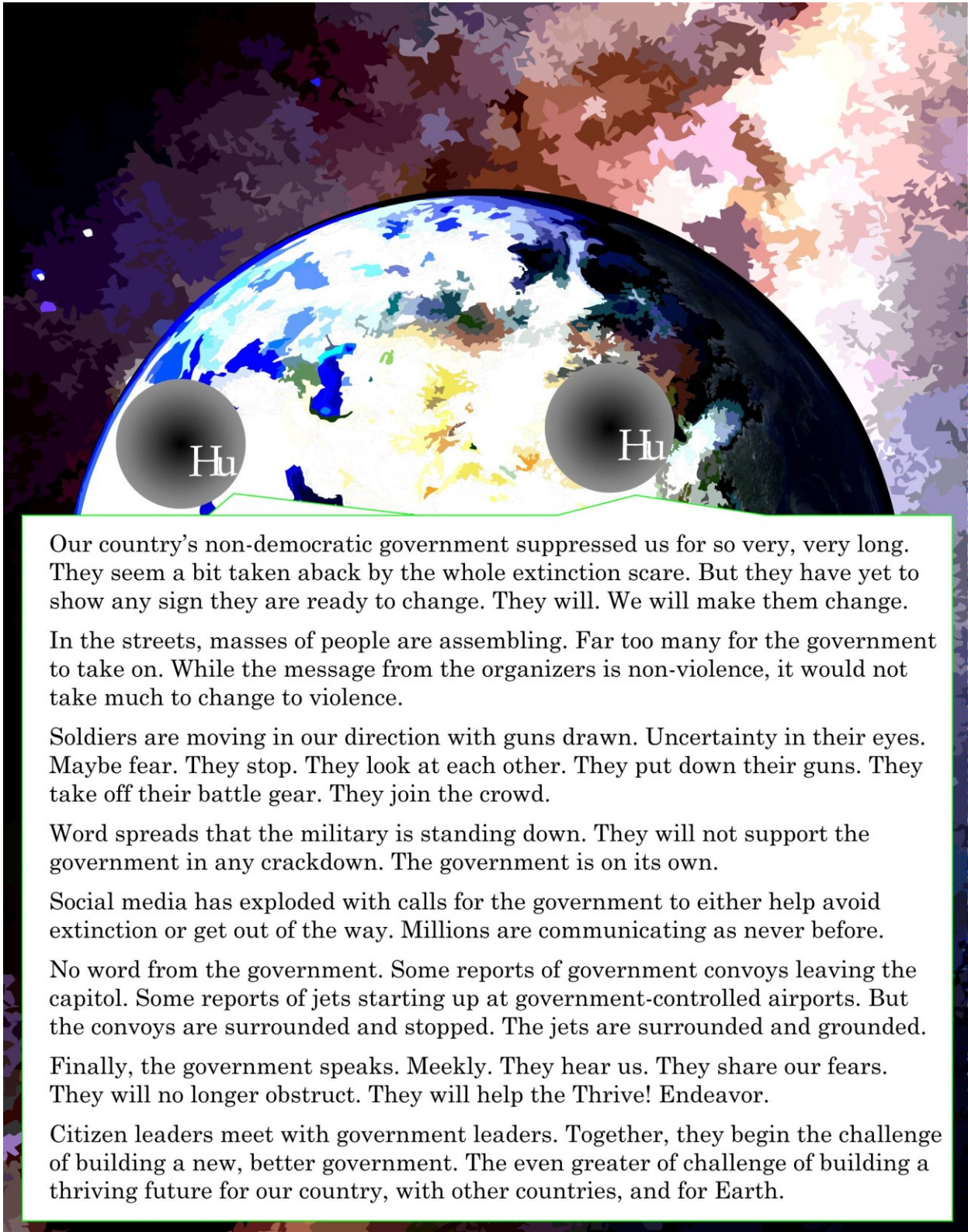
We speak loudly to our governments. Do not mistake our fears. Do not underestimate our resolve. We will avoid extinction and build a better future with you or without you. You no longer control our destiny.

We understand how selfish and shortsighted all of us have been.

Now we are together. Now we can and must succeed.

Our children watch. Our children's future depends on us. We must not fail them. We will not fail them.





Our country's non-democratic government suppressed us for so very, very long. They seem a bit taken aback by the whole extinction scare. But they have yet to show any sign they are ready to change. They will. We will make them change.

In the streets, masses of people are assembling. Far too many for the government to take on. While the message from the organizers is non-violence, it would not take much to change to violence.

Soldiers are moving in our direction with guns drawn. Uncertainty in their eyes. Maybe fear. They stop. They look at each other. They put down their guns. They take off their battle gear. They join the crowd.

Word spreads that the military is standing down. They will not support the government in any crackdown. The government is on its own.

Social media has exploded with calls for the government to either help avoid extinction or get out of the way. Millions are communicating as never before.

No word from the government. Some reports of government convoys leaving the capitol. Some reports of jets starting up at government-controlled airports. But the convoys are surrounded and stopped. The jets are surrounded and grounded.

Finally, the government speaks. Meekly. They hear us. They share our fears. They will no longer obstruct. They will help the Thrive! Endeavor.

Citizen leaders meet with government leaders. Together, they begin the challenge of building a new, better government. The even greater of challenge of building a thriving future for our country, with other countries, and for Earth.

Everybody's scared. Everybody's focused.

Bringing about change in a democracy should be easy. But it is not so easy.

But we are at edge of extinction because our leaders and we were selfish and shortsighted. That doesn't change overnight. It should.

Already demonstrations occur throughout the country. Calls for action. Calls for leadership. Calls for new leadership.

As elsewhere in the world, social media lights up like never before. Websites crash. Social media crashes. Only those who are not listening are not hearing.

Some of our leaders come out quickly and call for big change. Some have yet to come forward. They huddle in their offices deciding what to do.

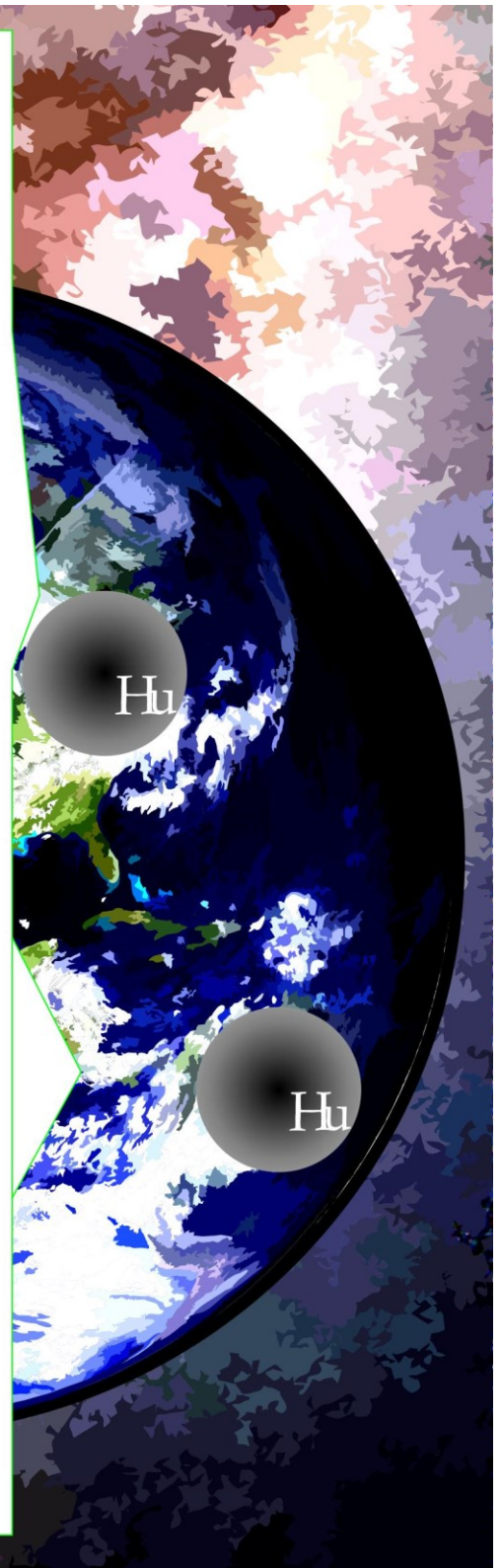
The President is silent. Unusual to be silent. But his selfishness and shortsightedness far exceeds that of everyone else.

No bipartisanship. Unwilling to cooperate. Finally, younger Governors and members of Congress step forward. Children at their side.

Then silence is broken. Congressional leaders rush to meet the President. Passing reporters, they assure we can avoid extinction and our government will act responsibly and quickly.

Less than hour later, a full government press conference is held. Our government will join and aggressively support the Thrive!

Endeavor. Our leaders call upon all of to also join as individuals and organizations. They are clear this global effort will not succeed without all of us together. For the first time, they make it clear that this is a global effort and not just our country by and for itself.



United Nations, New York.

General Assembly stands empty as it often is. Security Council stands empty, unable to agree upon anything substantial or global for a long time.

It has been so long since anyone came to the United Nations for anything. So long since the United Nations has done anything global.

But this is about to change.

Long dormant halls are quickly coming alive. Members and staff are rushing in with a new sense of urgency. A new sense of purpose. The world must avoid extinction.

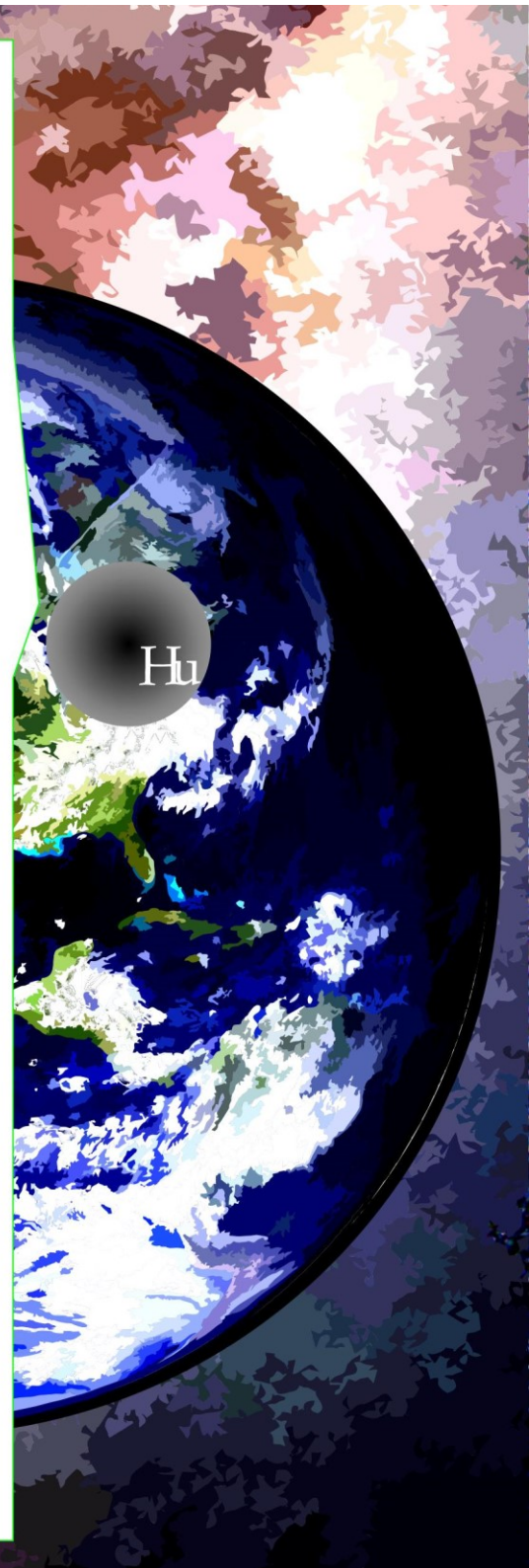
So long since it has fulfilled its founding and noble purpose, the United Nations must finally and definitively lead and act.

Already, the General Assembly is calling for urgent action. Calling for UN adoption of the Thrive! Endeavor.

Over in a corner of the Security Council chamber, all of the Council members huddle. Translators translating the feverish discussion. All member's heads are nodding affirmatively.

Quickly, they move to their seats. The Security Council President calls the meeting to order. The Thrive! Endeavor is described. A motion to adopt, with simultaneous seconds by all members, is made. Vote is unanimous. No abstentions. No vetoes.

The Thrive! Endeavor is now formally a global effort joined by all countries. While the UN is the lead and will act quickly, all countries understand that they and their people must lead and act quickly.



Just days ago, I, supposedly one of world's great thinkers, sat perplexed and dying. I knew what was supposed to happen.

After all, what drives humans is that a person and a people need to survive and desire to thrive in the current world and a sustainable future world.

We depend on other persons for survival and thriving, especially in the long term. And, our future world must be sustainable and sustained to fully meet our need and desire.

But this thriving future was not happening. Why? Simply because our leaders and most of us were selfish and shortsighted. By the time we were ready to build a thriving future, we had almost exhausted Earth. We almost ran out of time.

But then we were scared into acting to save ourselves and Earth.

Re-focusing our efforts, we started to use the Thrive! Endeavor as the vehicle for building a new future.



Just weeks ago, I sat with my esteemed colleagues. Three Nobel scientists.

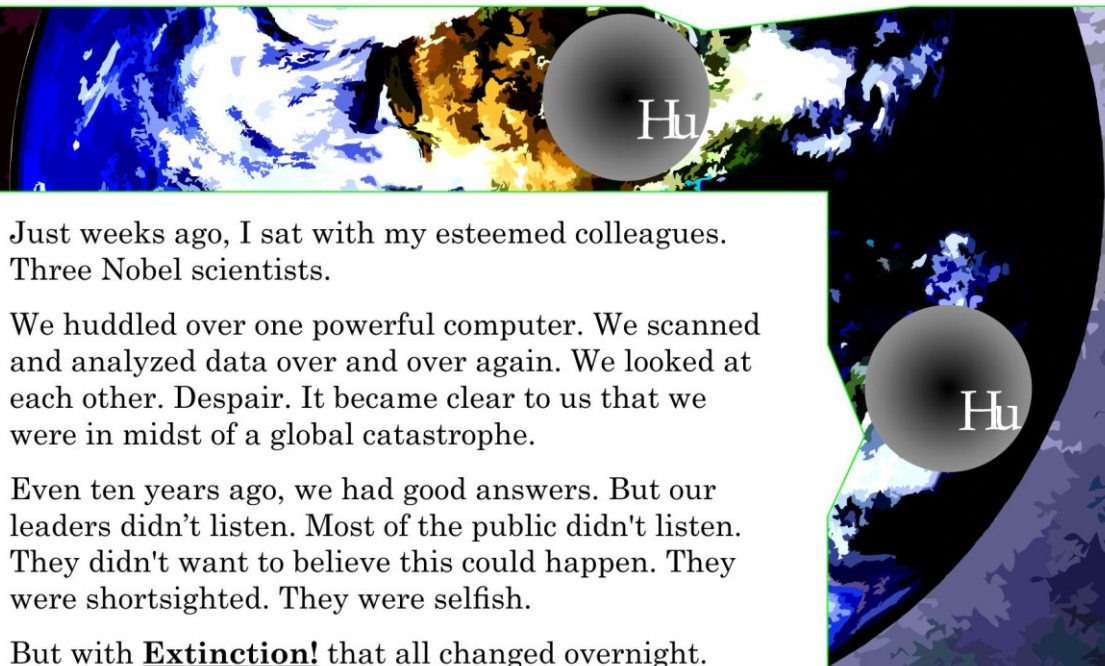
We huddled over one powerful computer. We scanned and analyzed data over and over again. We looked at each other. Despair. It became clear to us that we were in midst of a global catastrophe.

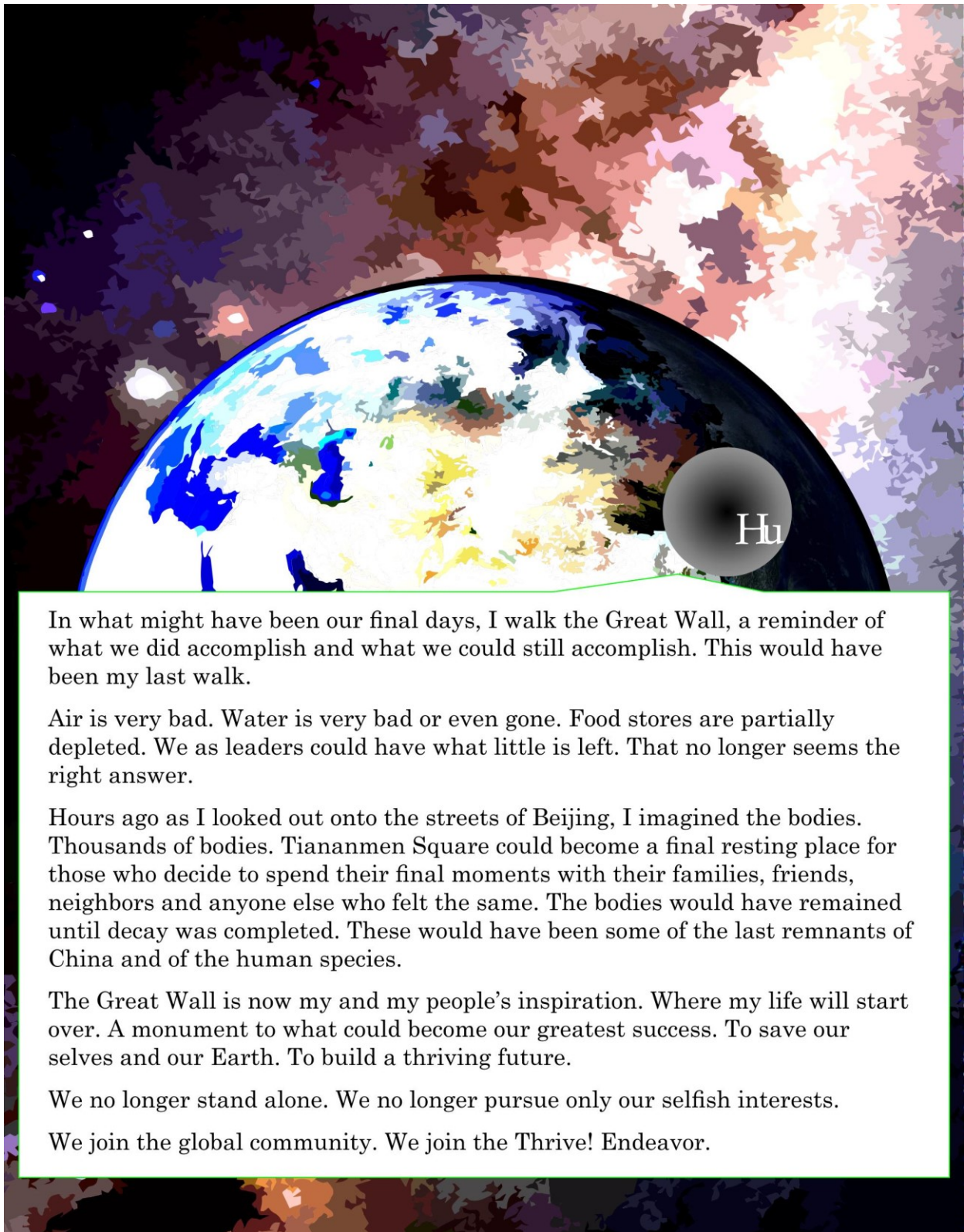
Even ten years ago, we had good answers. But our leaders didn't listen. Most of the public didn't listen. They didn't want to believe this could happen. They were shortsighted. They were selfish.

But with **Extinction!** that all changed overnight. They learned just how foolish they were.

Now they and we are fighting back from extinction. We say no to extinction for the human species. No to extinction for Earth.

Joining our knowledge with the Thrive! Endeavor, we believe we can build a better, thriving future for all.





In what might have been our final days, I walk the Great Wall, a reminder of what we did accomplish and what we could still accomplish. This would have been my last walk.

Air is very bad. Water is very bad or even gone. Food stores are partially depleted. We as leaders could have what little is left. That no longer seems the right answer.

Hours ago as I looked out onto the streets of Beijing, I imagined the bodies. Thousands of bodies. Tiananmen Square could become a final resting place for those who decide to spend their final moments with their families, friends, neighbors and anyone else who felt the same. The bodies would have remained until decay was completed. These would have been some of the last remnants of China and of the human species.

The Great Wall is now my and my people's inspiration. Where my life will start over. A monument to what could become our greatest success. To save our selves and our Earth. To build a thriving future.

We no longer stand alone. We no longer pursue only our selfish interests.

We join the global community. We join the Thrive! Endeavor.

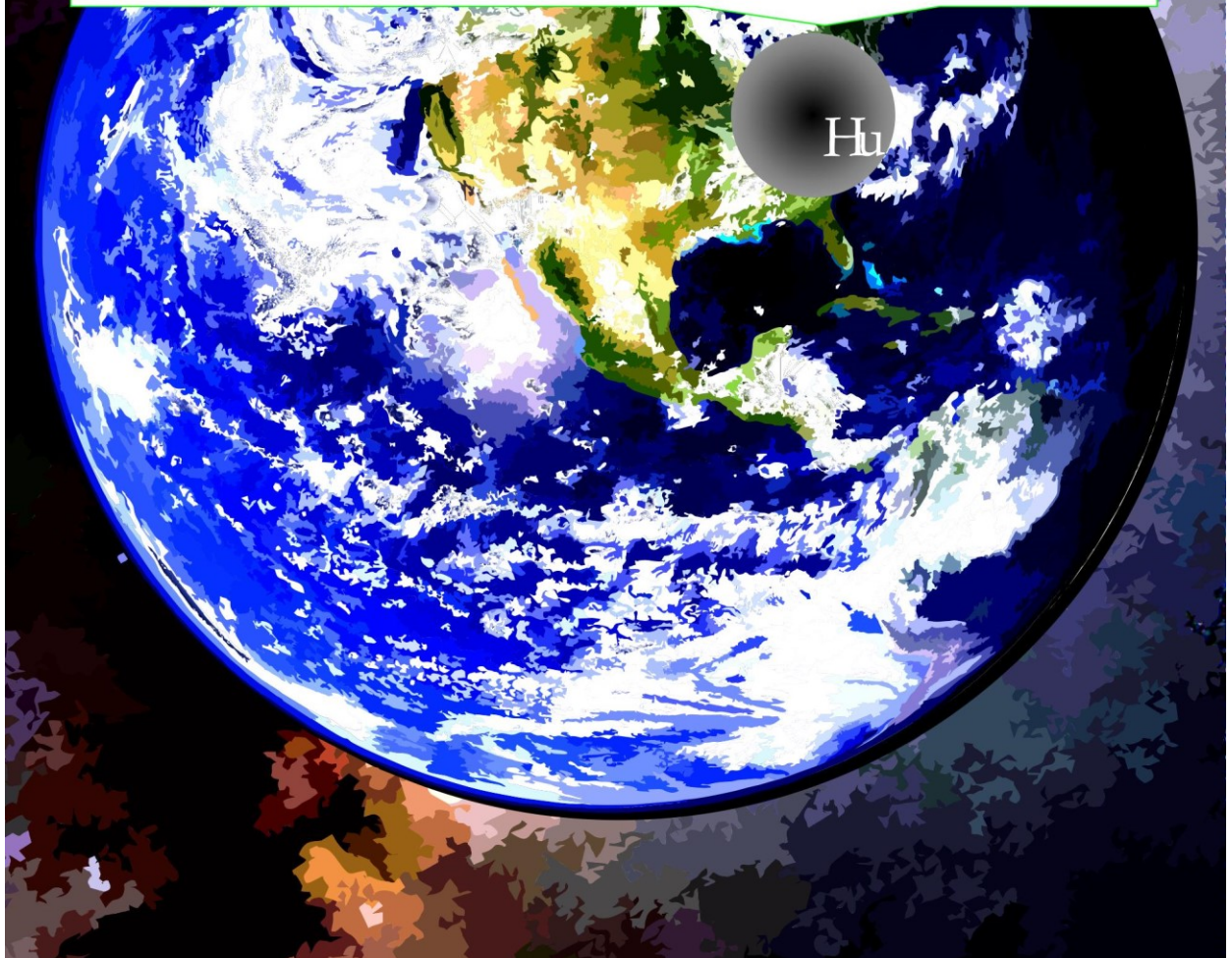
From the Oval Office looking out at the Washington Monument, I saw no hope. I failed. We failed.

What had happened had happened so much faster than anyone predicted. Still, we should have known. We should have acted. We failed.

We didn't expect all pieces of our survival starting to fail simultaneously. The synergistic effect of multiple failures was almost exponential. By the time we understood what was happening it was almost too late.

Our smartest people tried to find a solution. Almost immediately, they turned to us as the world's leaders and shook their heads. We were so close to what they called "Time of Death" for Earth and all its people.

We were scared into action. We were scared into what has become known as the Thrive! Endeavor. The last hope for America. The last hope for Earth and its people.



Sitting alone in the Kremlin, my smug smile and arrogance are gone.

I thought I had it all figured out. Russia would once again be a world power. I just had to weaken or destroy the other world powers.

So what. To be the last great power in a world that would shortly be dead would have been a hollow victory.

My Russia would soon be dead. I would have failed it.

I should have understood the global effort needed to keep Russia and Earth alive. I should have used my strength for that global effort.

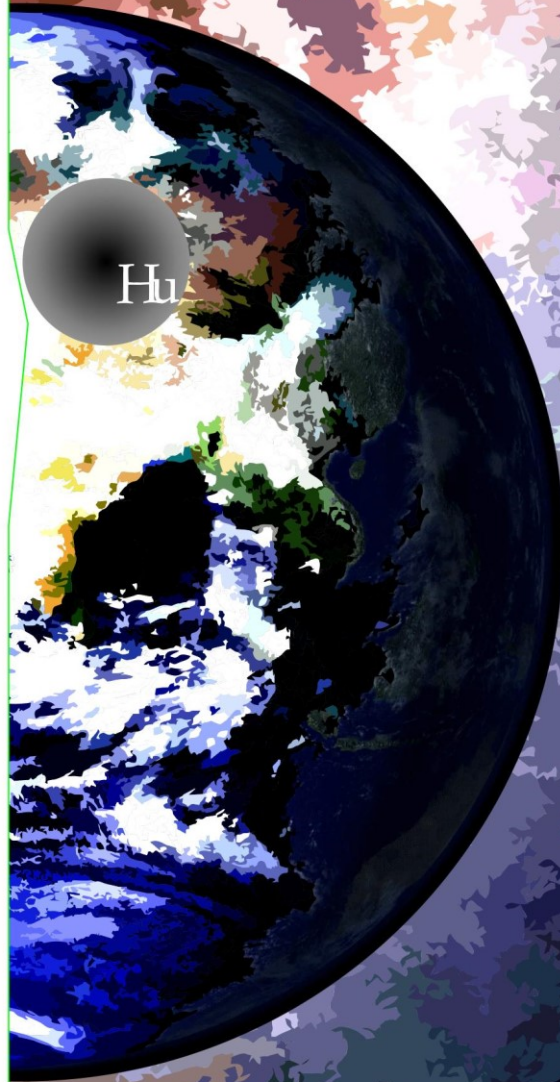
Now, if I want to be remembered as a great leader, I must change. Otherwise no one will remember me because there will be no one left to remember anyone or anything. We will be gone. Earth will be gone.

And so I change. Russian changes.

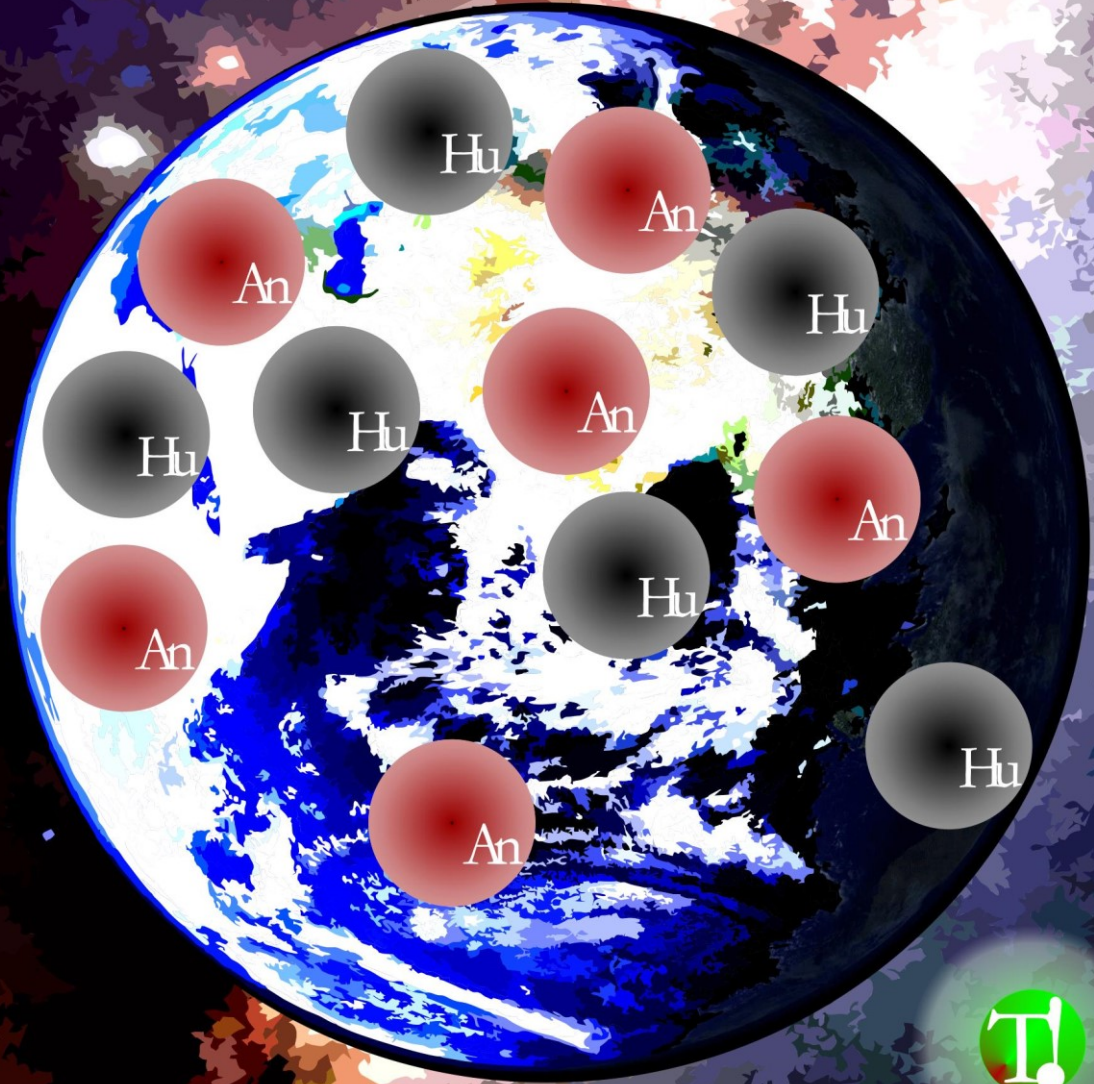
No longer will we go it alone. We will re-join the global community. We will join the Thrive! Endeavor. We will help lead it. We will help it succeed.

Russia will thrive. The world will thrive. Earth will thrive.

That will be Russia's and my new legacy.



Thrive!
All Thrive Forever!



Thrive!, a future when “all thrive forever”.

We built it. We will sustain it. We, our families and friends, our communities, our countries, and the world will thrive.

Thrive! is different and better than anything we tried or achieved in human history. Not just getting by or achieving a surviving future. It is thriving for all people and all future generations, a "50+ generation" strategy. Not just for some people or just for current and next generations. It is, not just for people. It is for plants and animals. It for Earth on which we live and depend.

We now know and agree that needing and desiring a thriving future is driven by a person and a people's need to survive and desire to thrive. To truly satisfy this need and desire, we, as a person and a people, need to survive and thrive. We depend on other persons (a people) for survival and thriving, especially in the long term. Our future survival and thriving depends on there being a future world that is sustainable and sustained for us.

Our future can never be perfect. After all, we are still human. There will be conflicts. Temporary backsliding. Instances of selfishness and shortsightedness. Moments when some persons are not thriving. But we are as close as humans can get. All, for all practical purposes, are thriving.

For the future, we will thrive! All will be well-off financially. All will have sufficient food. All will have good housing. All will be well-protected from negative exposures and crime. All will be educated to optimize our abilities. All will be physically and mentally well as feasible. All will grow and develop well. Our living habitat will be good. Earth, plants, animals and our environment will be physically well. All will not feel vulnerable. All who can work, will work and produce as best they can. All will feel safe. All will live with a stable, positive climate. All of us and our Earth will be sustained.

Joined together, we will “all thrive forever”.

United Nations, New York.

General Assembly is alive as it often is now.
Security Council is alive, finally able to agree upon
everything substantial or global .

It has been so long since anyone avoided the United
Nations for anything globally important. So long
since the United Nations failed to successfully
address major issues.

Long dormant halls are alive. Members and staff
rush to and fro with a strong sense of urgency. A
strong sense of purpose. Build a thriving future for
all forever.

Finally, it is fulfilling its founding and noble
purpose. United Nations definitively leads and acts.

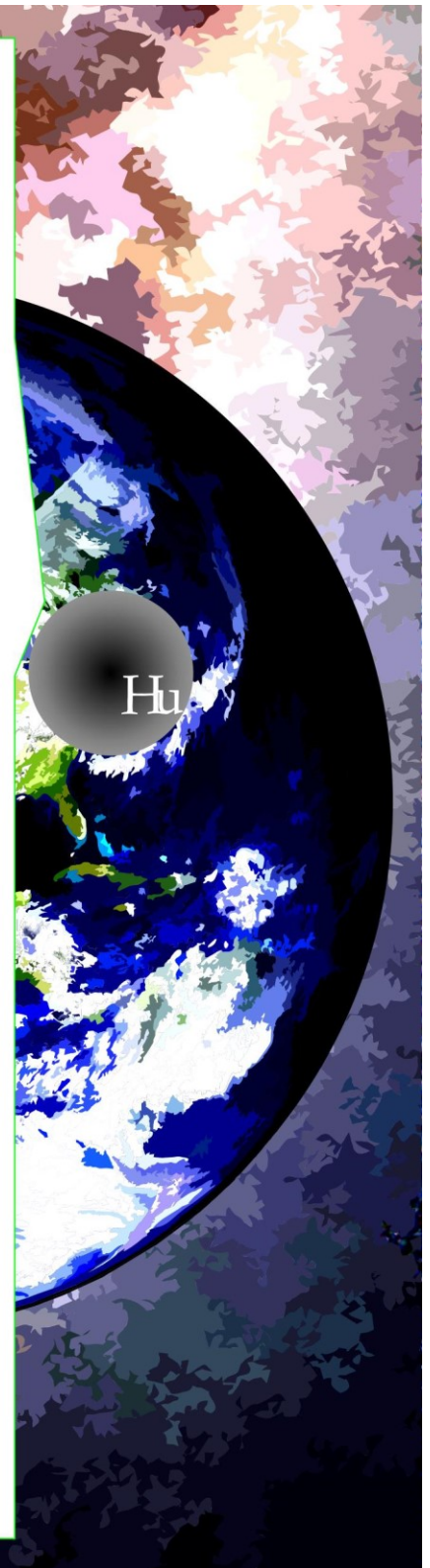
Already, General Assembly is calling for more
selfless and longsighted action. Calling for UN
fulfillment of Thrive! Endeavor. Thrive! is
succeeding. But more is needed.

Over at the Security Council chamber, all of the
Council members huddle. Translators translating
the feverish discussion. All member's heads are
nodding affirmatively.

Quickly, they move to their seats. The Security
Council President calls the meeting to order. An
update on the Thrive! Endeavor is given. Not
enough accomplished yet. Not quick enough. A
motion to expedite, with simultaneous seconds by
all members, is made. Vote is unanimous.

The Thrive! Endeavor is an even higher priority
and more expedited global effort joined by all
countries. UN remains the lead and will act much
more quickly. All countries understand that they
and their people must lead and act even more
quickly.

Achieving and sustaining "All thrive forever" is still
a work in progress.



Back then, much of my hope relied on my solar panels and batteries. Surely, there would be enough sun to keep my energy efficient home functioning.

So wrong. Back then, little sun made it through the dark skies. Little solar energy being generated. Batteries almost depleted.

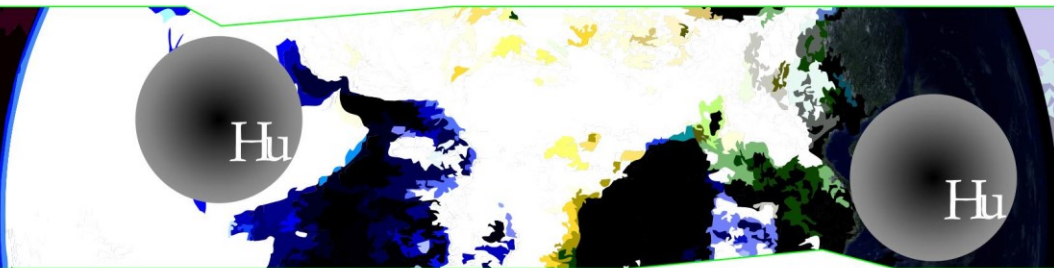
I was wrong. I would just last a little longer than some.

I feared my neighbors were becoming increasingly desperate.

Somehow, we made it through that desperate moment. Rather than fighting, we came together. We pooled our resources. Just with the hope that we could survive if we could buy some time. Maybe we could survive for some better future.

We did just that. The sun shines more. Solar energy powers my home.

All because we joined together. All because we built a thriving future together.



Throughout that year, troubling signs that something was terribly wrong.

Air was more polluted. Skies darkened. Sun made its way through the darkened skies on fewer days. More crops failed. More animals and plants of all kinds declined. Fuel of all kinds produced in smaller and smaller amounts. Water more polluted and scarce. More groundwater disappeared. Weather both warmed and more erratic – much more severe and devastating weather. Glaciers and ice shelves melted faster, producing more icebergs and rising oceans.

Even with these warning signs, Earth's population grew at historic rates.

But no longer. We escaped extinction via the Thrive! Endeavor.

Air sustains us. Sun sustains us. Plants and animals are sustained. Crops sustain us. Renewable energy sustains us. Earth's water sustains us. Weather is more predictable and sustains us.

We are thriving. Earth is thriving.

We are finally all thrive. We are finally on the path to all thrive forever.

Back then, the black-spotted cows moos had become less frequent and softer. They were dying.

Almost no rain. Almost no grass in the pasture. Almost no hay from the barn.

They come to the barn for food as they began to starve. They feared.

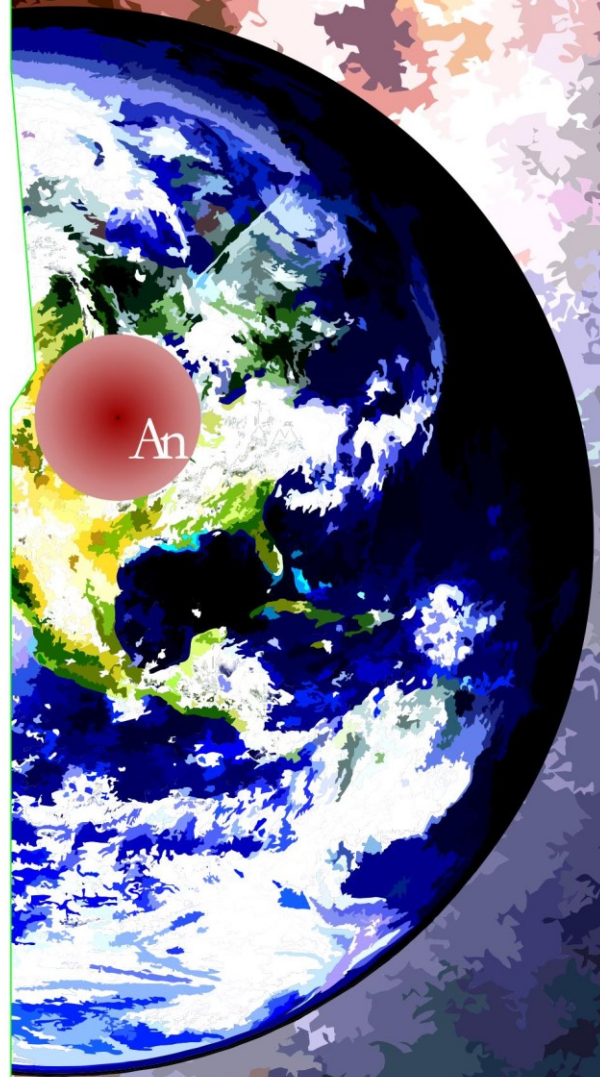
For weeks back then, the farmer did not come to feed or milk them. There was no milk because there was almost no feed.

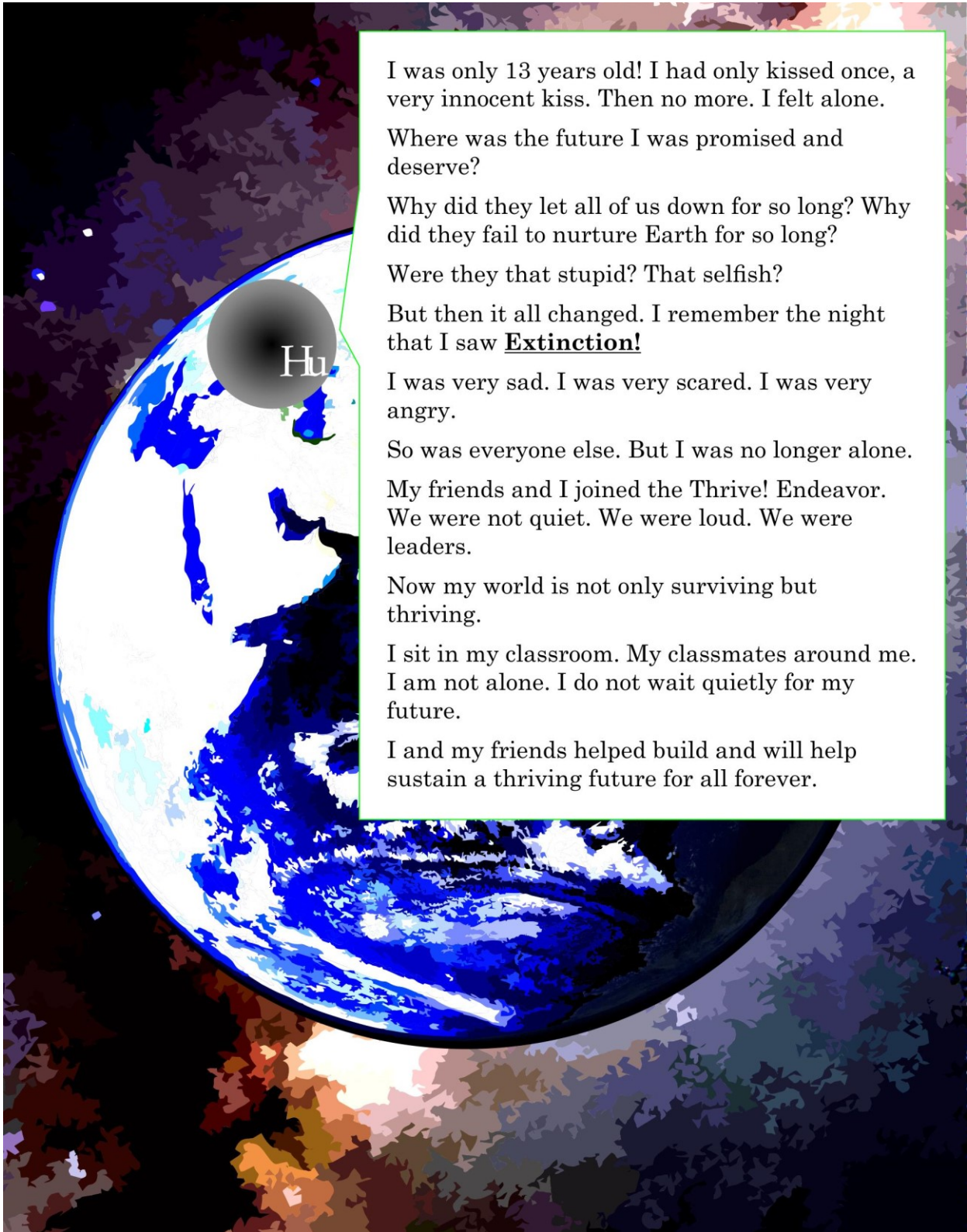
They vaguely remember the farmer walking sadly to the farmhouse. The farmer's family was on the porch, also sad. They held each other. They went inside. The cows worried the farmer would not come out again.

Then the cows heard sounds. The farmer's family emerged. Not sadly but happily. A large truck arrived with life sustaining hay.

In the months and years to come, the farm comes back to life. Rains come. Hay once again grows in the fields. Farmer gathers it to sustain the mooing cows. Farmer takes much better care of the mooing cows. Once again, the mooing cows' milk sustains the surrounding community.

Once again and for the future, there is a thriving life for softly mooing cows, the farmer and the surrounding community.





I was only 13 years old! I had only kissed once, a very innocent kiss. Then no more. I felt alone.

Where was the future I was promised and deserve?

Why did they let all of us down for so long? Why did they fail to nurture Earth for so long?

Were they that stupid? That selfish?

But then it all changed. I remember the night that I saw **Extinction!**

I was very sad. I was very scared. I was very angry.

So was everyone else. But I was no longer alone.

My friends and I joined the Thrive! Endeavor. We were not quiet. We were loud. We were leaders.

Now my world is not only surviving but thriving.

I sit in my classroom. My classmates around me. I am not alone. I do not wait quietly for my future.

I and my friends helped build and will help sustain a thriving future for all forever.



In the jungle back then, animals were confused and distressed. Something was very wrong. They didn't know what it was. Didn't know why. There was a problem with air they breathed, water they drank, and food they ate. No longer were these sustaining the animals.

As they withered and died, they didn't understand why. They were scared. They were sad.

It is as if they were disappointed with humans, the so-called "higher species". This human species could help Earth and its inhabitants thrive or could destroy them. Humans chose to destroy.

But now the animals are no longer sad and scared. Their habitat has changed for the better. Their lives have changed for the better. Much, much better.

No longer are humans a threat. No longer are humans destroyers.

As it should be, a symbiotic partnership exists between animals, plants, humans and Earth.

From the Oval Office looking out toward the Washington Monument, I see something wonderful. Signs of a thriving future.

Since we opened the gates of the White House grounds, more and more families are bringing their children to play.

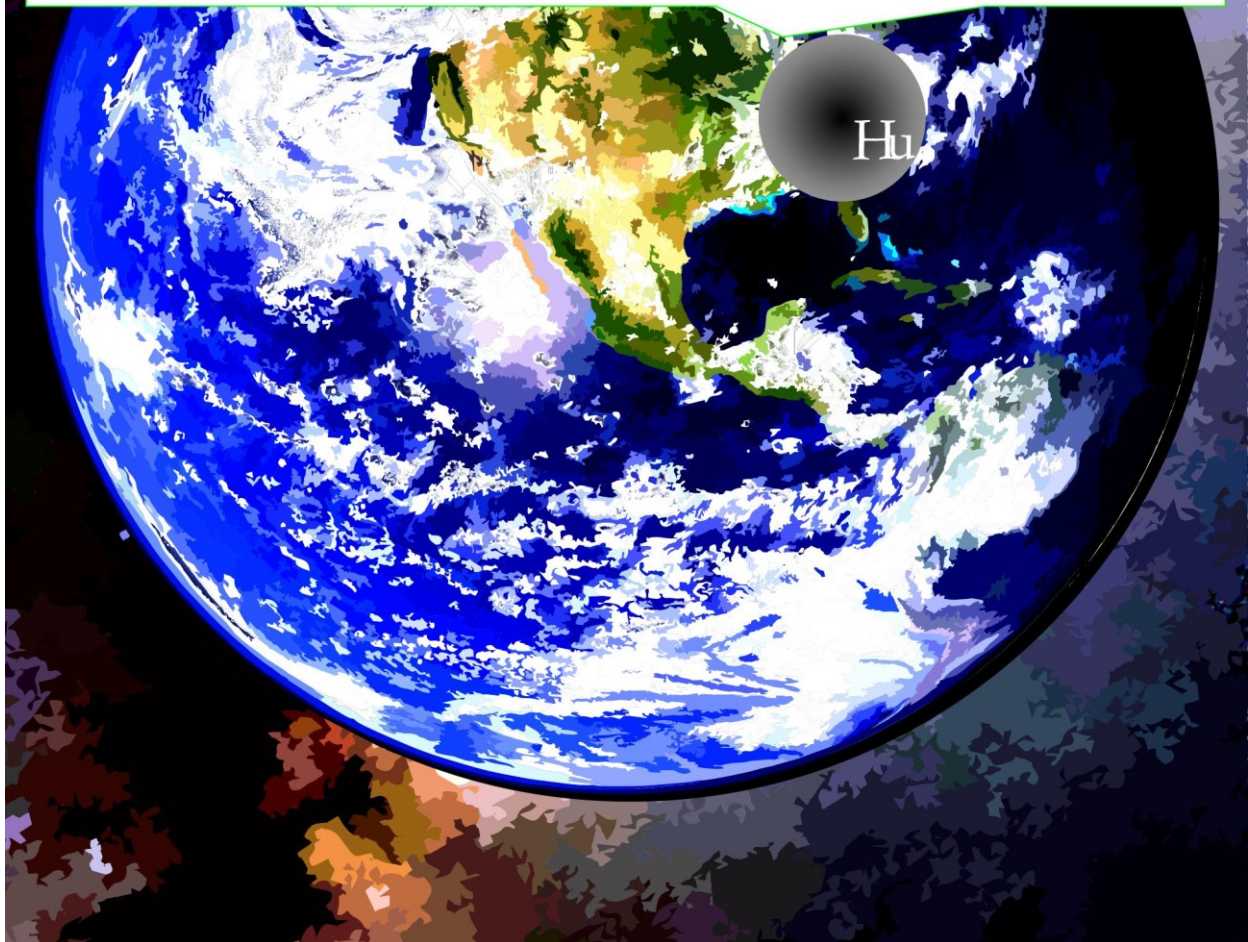
Children bring so much joy to what has been far too stately a place. Now it is a playground. Now it is a symbol of America's future. Of the world's future.

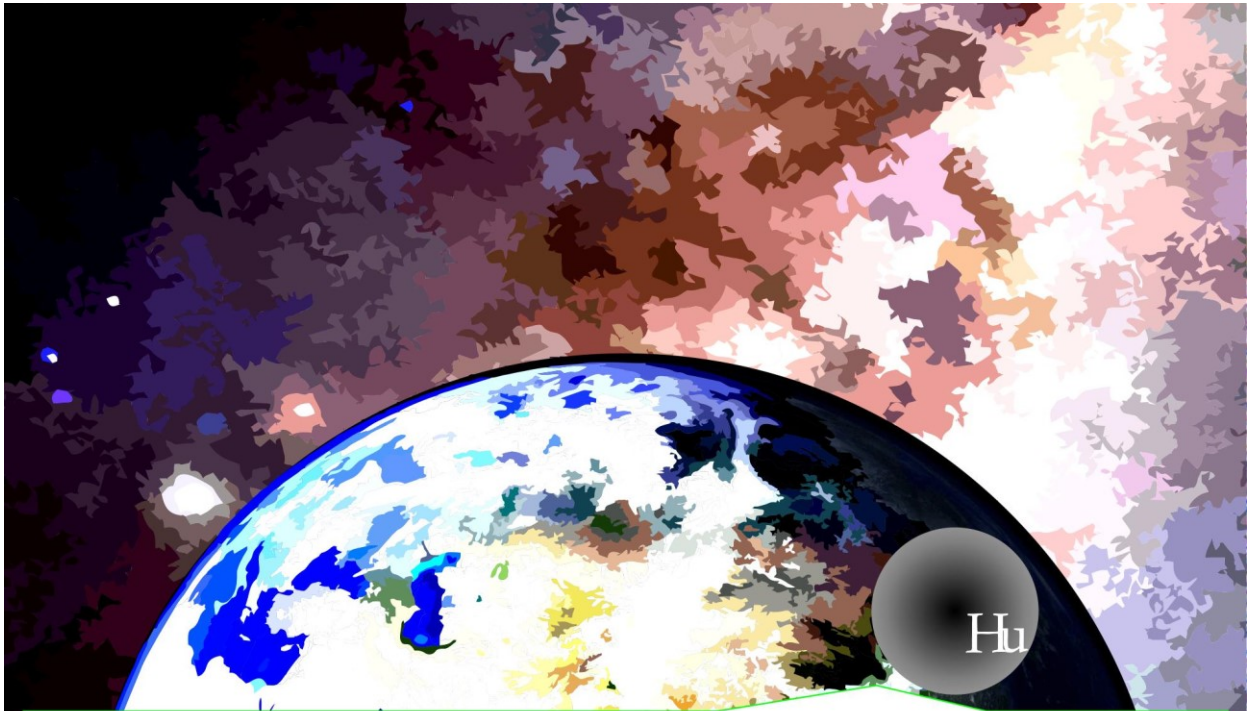
American democracy has changed. Changed for the better.

These days, there is hardly ever an election with partisan candidates. We have moved beyond that. Now candidates campaign on what is best for America and the world and who is best at accomplishing what is best.

Many more women and minority candidates. Many more young candidates

With Thrive!, we are a much better democracy. A much better country. Supporting a much better world.





In what are becoming our best days, I walk the Great Wall, a reminder of what we did accomplish and what we will accomplish. This will be my last walk as head of the Chinese government. My time has passed. Time for a new and better generation of leaders. Our children are building our thriving future.

The days of one party rule of any country have passed. Many more of our people help govern. Now we experiment with new forms of government that focus on what is best for our people, all our people.

Led by many of our youngest leaders, this new government has already made many improvements. More to come.

Air is very good. Water is very good and plentiful. Food stores are fully stocked. Every Chinese has enough to survive and thrive. That is the right answer.

Hours ago as I looked out onto the streets of Beijing, I see our people. Thousands of people. Tiananmen Square is the place for those who decide to spend their best moments with their families, friends, neighbors and anyone else who feels the same. They represent the best of China and of the human species.

The Great Wall, now with many openings, is now my and my people's inspiration. A monument to what could become our greatest success. To save our selves and our Earth. To build a thriving future for all Chinese and for all of Earth's people.

We do not sit alone in the Kremlin. Gone are smug smiles and arrogance. Autocratic type leaders are gone. We do not need them. We cannot afford them.

This is a new world with a new future. We must help lead Russia. Russia must work collaboratively with and help lead the world to a thriving future.

This is no longer about Russia being a world power to the detriment of others.

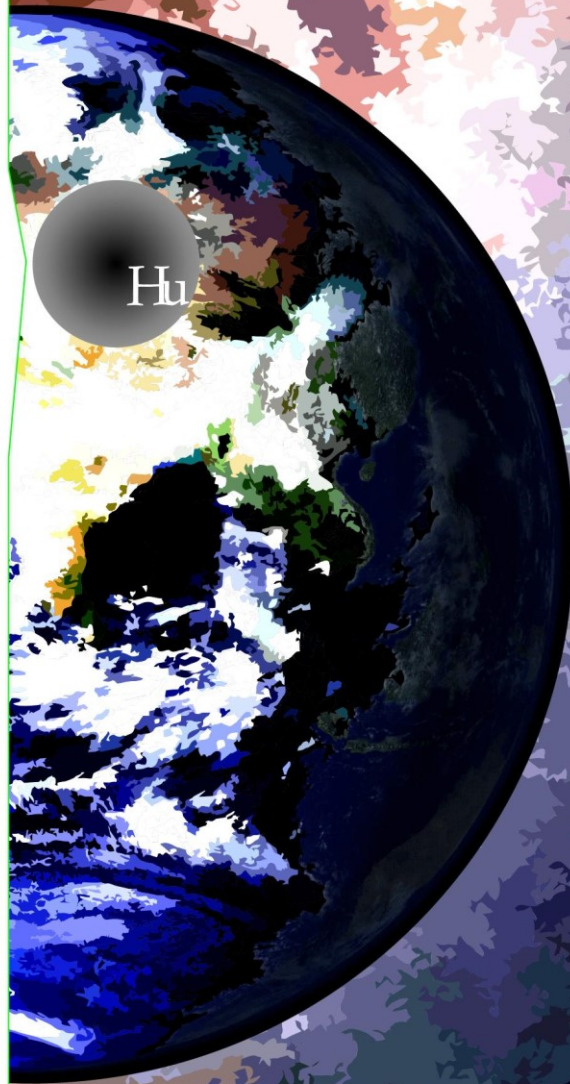
We, the new leaders of a new Russia, understand the global effort needed to keep Russia and Earth alive. We will use our strength for that global effort.

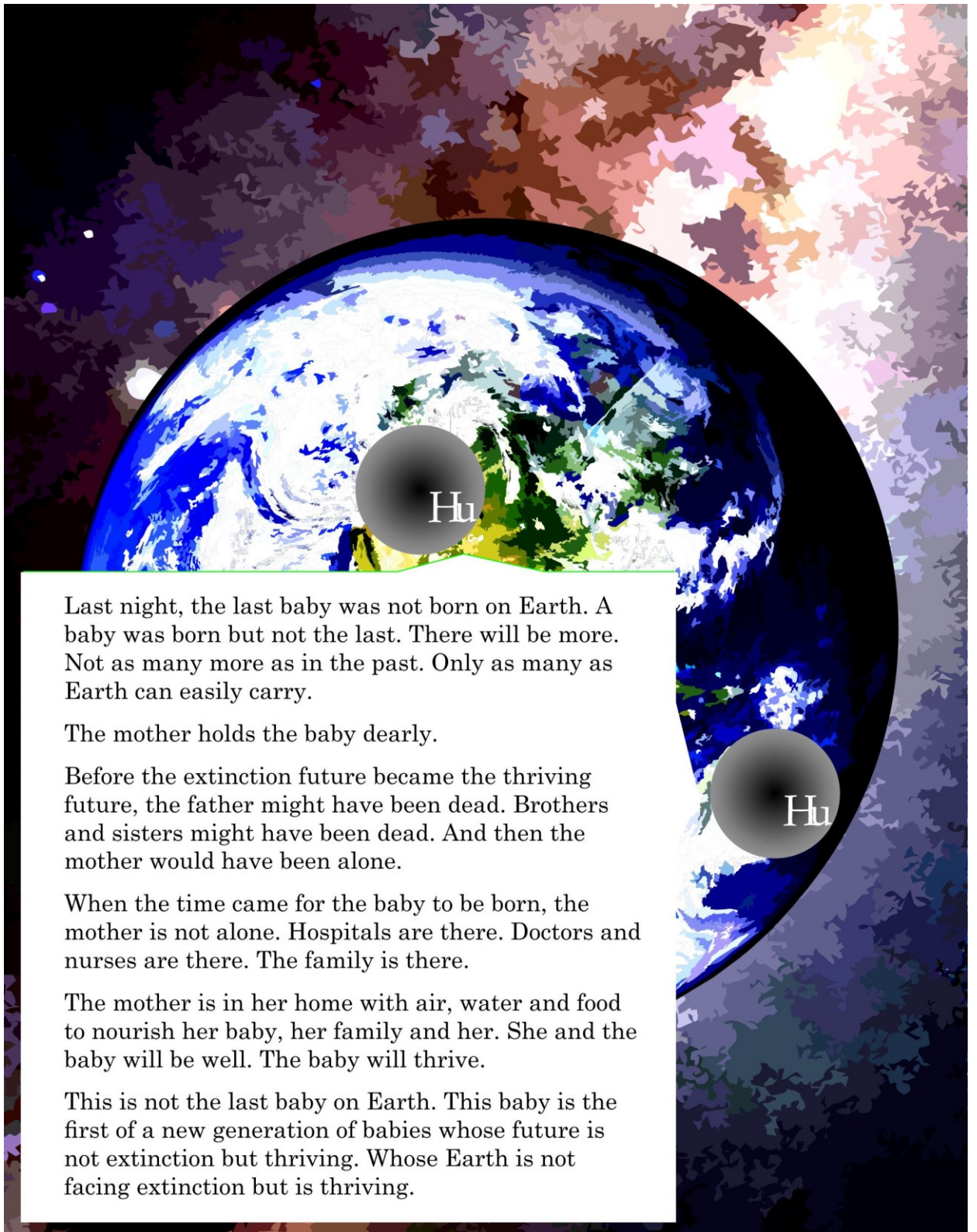
Governance in Russia is by the people and for the people. But it fits the Russian people in a global community.

No longer will we go it alone. We are part of the global community. We help lead the Thrive! Endeavor. We help it succeed.

Russia thrives. The world thrives. Earth thrives.

This is Russia's newest and best legacy.





Last night, the last baby was not born on Earth. A baby was born but not the last. There will be more. Not as many more as in the past. Only as many as Earth can easily carry.

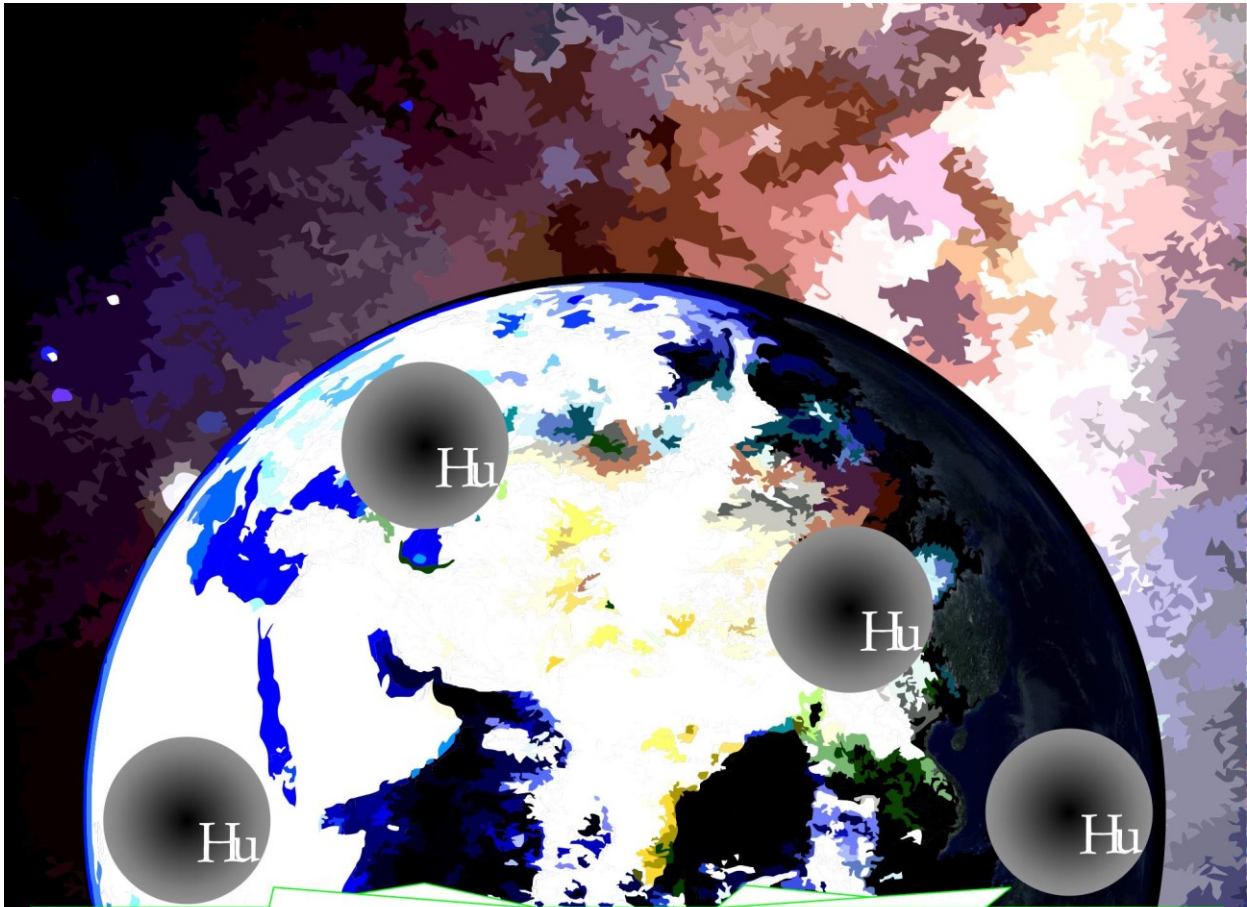
The mother holds the baby dearly.

Before the extinction future became the thriving future, the father might have been dead. Brothers and sisters might have been dead. And then the mother would have been alone.

When the time came for the baby to be born, the mother is not alone. Hospitals are there. Doctors and nurses are there. The family is there.

The mother is in her home with air, water and food to nourish her baby, her family and her. She and the baby will be well. The baby will thrive.

This is not the last baby on Earth. This baby is the first of a new generation of babies whose future is not extinction but thriving. Whose Earth is not facing extinction but is thriving.



Globally, there is enough air, food, water, and energy. Very different from when the world was facing massive shortages of all of these. When facing extinction.

Countries no longer need or want militaries invading countries for what few resources are left. Countries are no longer overrun and plundered. People no longer die in unnecessary wars.

The more powerful and the less powerful countries all accept this is the new future. They now join in sustaining this thriving future for them and the rest of Earth.

The global community now understands and embraces the fact that they must be a community. They and the Earth on which they depend have no other choice, other than extinction.

Escaping extinction at all costs. Achieving and sustaining a thriving future at all costs.

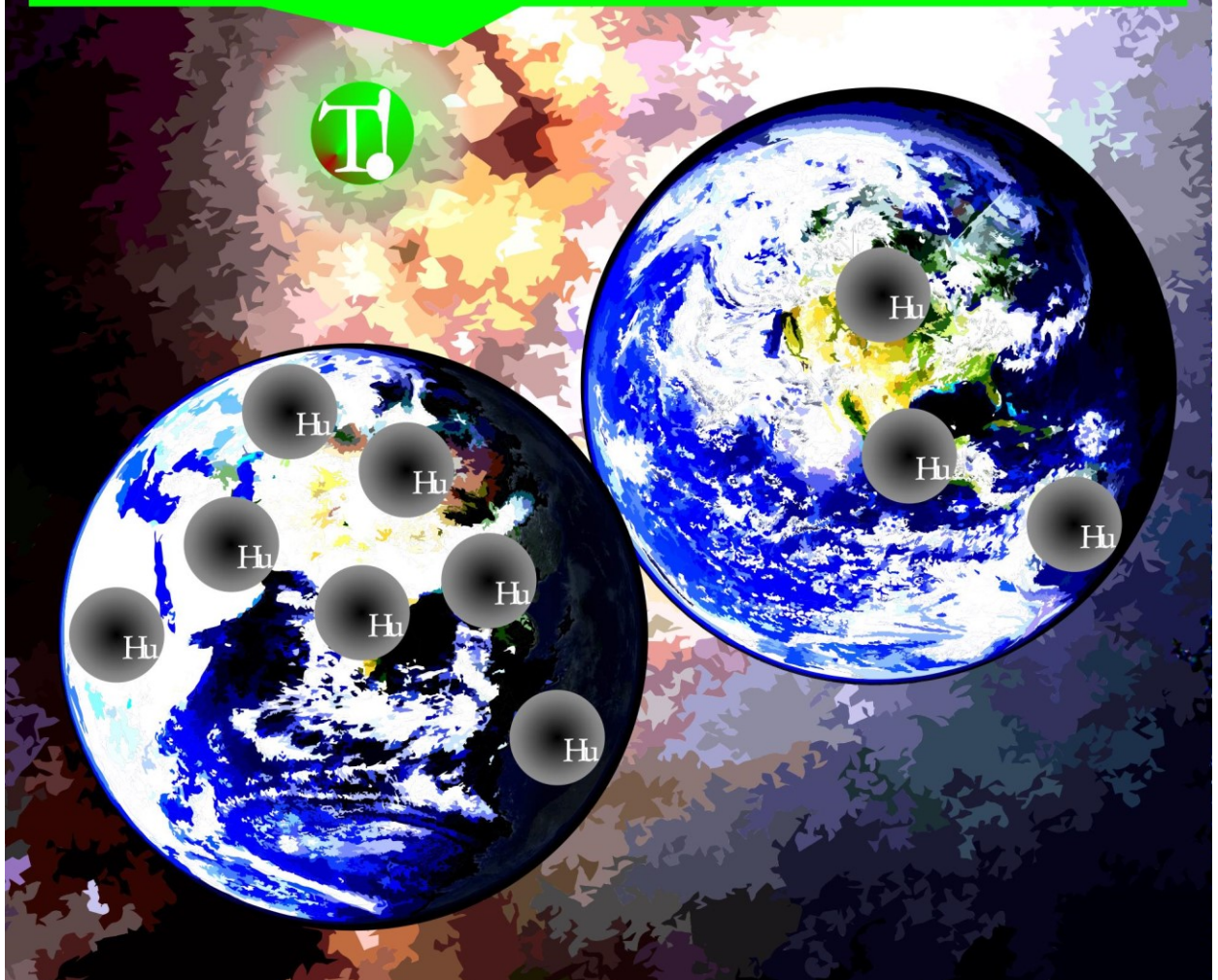
Lessons learned just in time

Look at Earth's children. Look at them play together.

For the first time in human history, they are all happy.

They are well-off financially. All have sufficient food. All have good housing. All are well-protected from negative exposures and crime. All are being educated to optimize their abilities. All are physically and mentally well as feasible. All are growing and developing well. Their living habitat is good. Earth, plants, animals and their environment are physically well. All don't feel vulnerable. All who will be able to work, will work and produce as best they can. All feel safe. All live with a stable, positive climate. All of them and their Earth are sustained.

Look at Earth's children, they, through all generations to come, will all thrive forever.



At the edge of extinction, the human species did not fail to learn and did not fail to act in time to save themselves and their Earth. But it was oh so close.

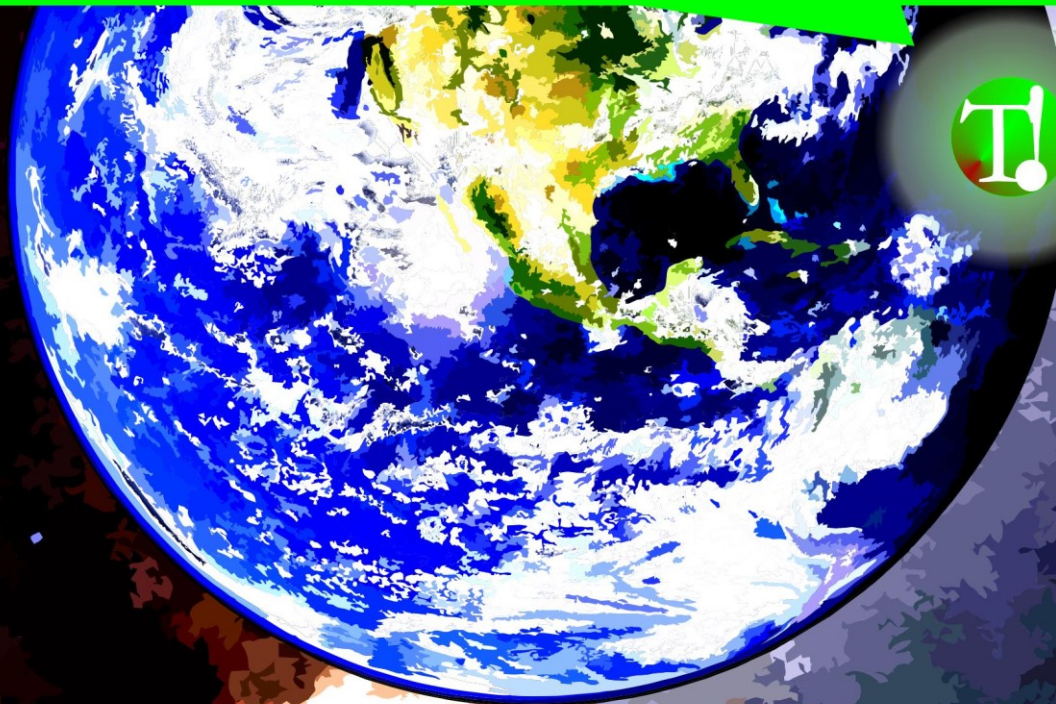
Right at the edge, they understood the failure to thrive is the path to extinction.

Even at the edge, some may not have understood their failure. That their extinction would not come from an external force or from Earth's failure. Their extinction would come from the human species own actions.

Now I go forth and share lessons of near failure and ultimate success with other worlds.

May there never be a failure like that which almost happened to the human species and Earth. May there never be an extinction due to selfishness.

May every world learn how to thrive. May every world act so as to ensure all thrive forever.



I leave now. No reason to stay. Other planets to help.

No ghostly whispers. Just the triumphant sounds of human voices, plant and animal voices, and Earth's voice.

I was ready to help but they didn't need me. That is all I could hope for, especially given how close they came to extinction.

Now this story of selfishness overthrown by selflessness will spread across the universe. There will be joy for the innocent children. For innocent animals and plants. For innocent Earth. For they now have a thriving future.

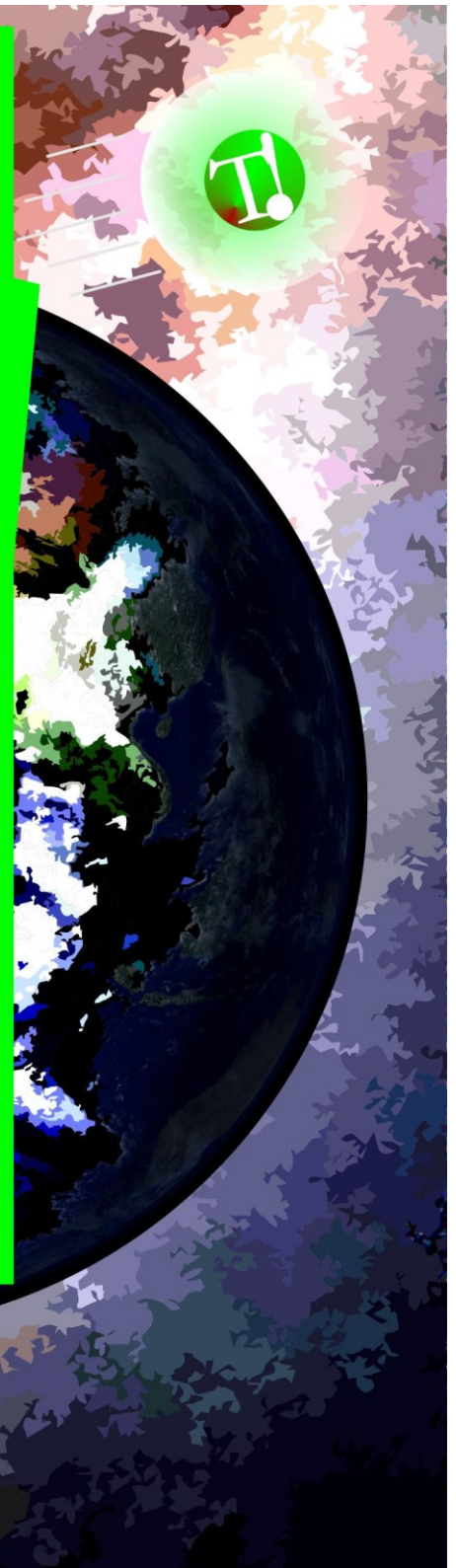
There will be great anger at what the adult humans almost did. There will be great relief at what they finally did. In the end, they chose a thriving future. In the end, they achieved and sustain that future.

It is they and all future adults that now sustain their children's future. It is they that now must sustain Earth.

Still, good that humans never reached another planet. Good they did not destroy planet Earth. No species should destroy one planet. Never, never should they have the chance to destroy more than one.

Hopefully, this near extinction will never happen with other species on other planets.

Hopefully, this thriving future will happen again and again and again.





Thrive!



All thrive forever!

