

Extinction!

The Failure To Thrive



Thrive!

By
Gary "Chris" Christopherson

Thrive!

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Gary “Chris” Christopherson

AllThriveForever.org

ThriveEndeavor.org

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University Park, Maryland

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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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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.

Prologue

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

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

This is the story of the human species.

This is the story of Earth.

This is the failure to thrive.

This is extinction.

Extinction! - Key Characters

	<p>T! [Thrive!], space and time traveler helping worlds to survive and thrive</p>
	<p>Human spirit</p>
	<p>Animal spirit</p>

About the Author

Gary “Chris” Christopherson has written several books.

ThriveEndeavor.org

Three are science-fiction novels entitled 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 HealthPeople, 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 .



all thrive forever

GChris

Thrive! Sculpture by GChris

all thrive forever

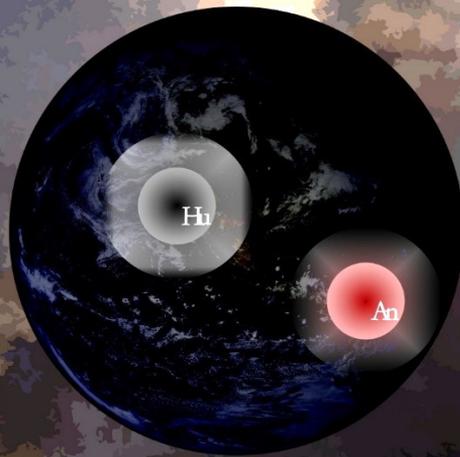
3' x 3' Metal Mobile Sculpture

Challenges each and all of us to build, achieve and sustain a thriving future for all forever.

In a future far too soon, Earth is dead.

Earth's human species is dead. Extinction.

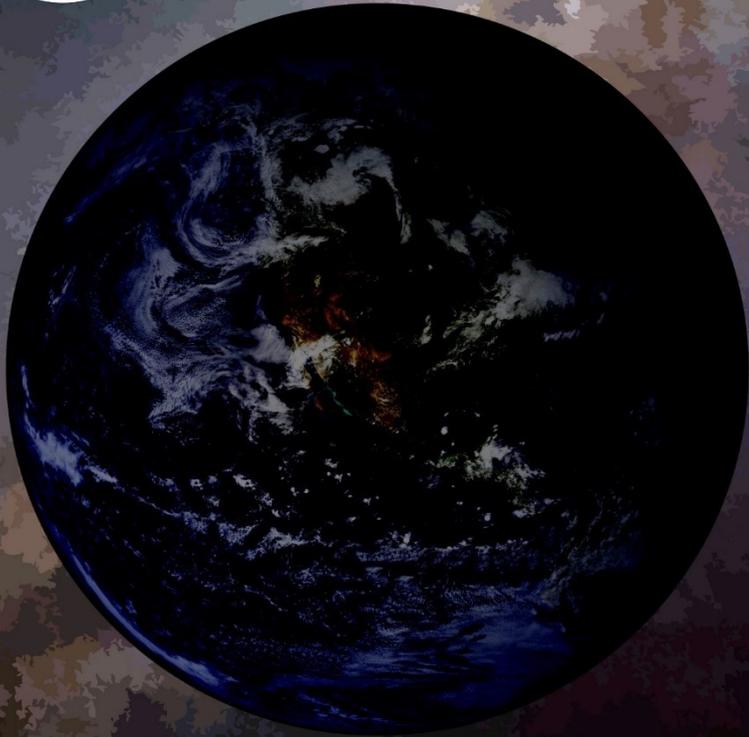
Death came not from an external force.
It came from within. Not from Earth
itself. But from the human species
who inhabited Earth.



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



I heard the rumors across the universe.
A world was dying.
Even in the vast universe, this is a tragedy.
I raced to get there while it still might be saved.
Too late.
The world had died. Its home, Earth, had died.
How? Why?



T! [*Thrive!*] - a space and time traveler
capable of altering the future

Earth and humans now extinct.

Arriving here today, I see a world lost. Earth.

It saddens me. It didn't have to happen. It shouldn't have happened.

Humans had so much potential.

Humans were Earth's only species capable of achieving all thrive forever. But it was also the only species capable of destroying itself and its home planet.

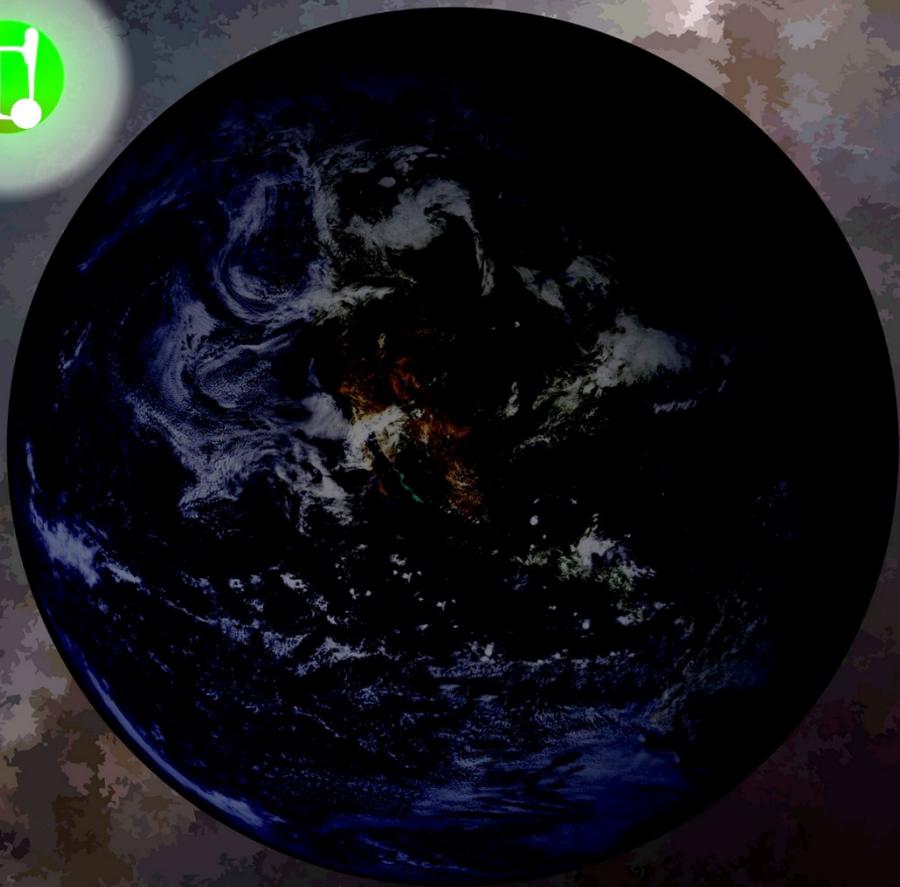


Earth should be thriving! Humans should be thriving! Not extinct!

To avoid extinction and achieve thriving, humans needed to want a better future. To think and behave better.

If humans wanted to thrive, they needed to think of self and all others, of surviving and thriving, and of now and forever. Some did. Most didn't..

Humans failed and are extinct because most did not think beyond just self, not think beyond just survival, and not think beyond just now.



Seeing the dying Earth around me, I want to understand the tragedy. I want to warn other worlds.

I must go back in time to watch the tragedy unfold. To learn the lessons. To tell the story.

I will hear ghostly voices crying out for help, for comfort, for mercy, for forgiveness. There will be none.

Then they will be gone. A great silence.

A great darkness.



Earth and humans many, many years ago.

I have gone back many,
many years ago.

Back in time before the
end came.

It has been several
thousand years since 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 were at a tipping point when they were the most capable in their history and they were most endangering their and Earth's existence.

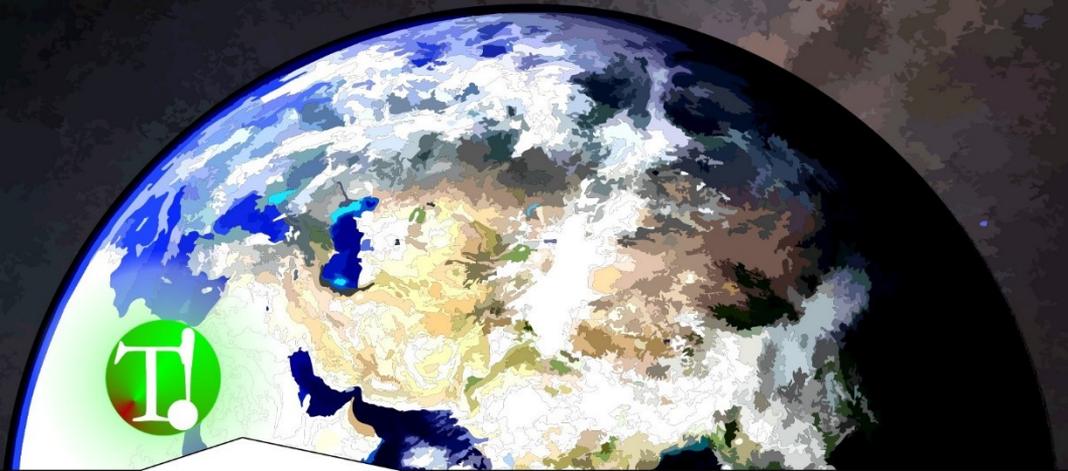


Facing their future, they could choose the current path. That path was driven by their selfishness, by only focusing on surviving, and by their focus only on today and the near term future.

The better thriving path for them would be driven by caring about themselves and all others, by focusing on surviving and thriving, and by focusing on the near and long term future.

Tragically, they could even choose the absolutely worst path, an even more selfish and destructive path. If chosen, the path would more quickly result in extinction. Given what I now see, this is apparently the path they chose.





For a while, a sharp battle ensued between the forces for a selfish future and the forces for a thriving future.

The forces for a thriving future were strong and aggressive. Their argument persuasive. Their high government positions powerful.

Noted scientists were key to this strength. Study after study produced results that said that the human species and Earth were in great peril unless the future was changed. Study after study offered strategies that would ensure a better and longer future for the human species and Earth.

International bodies supported the studies and argued for this better future. Agreements were struck that reduced human's negative impact on themselves and Earth. Agreements were struck that laid the path for a better future. Many nations supported and then adopted this better path.

The future looked bright for humans and Earth. But only for a while.

Only for a while, did thriving future hold sway.

Then came a change. A very bad change. The forces of selfishness took hold. They fed off fear. They fed off disillusionment. They fed off division. Persuasive arguments built on selfishness being good. That a great future would be fed by selfishness. That the Earth's resources and human ingenuity would ensure humans and Earth's forever.

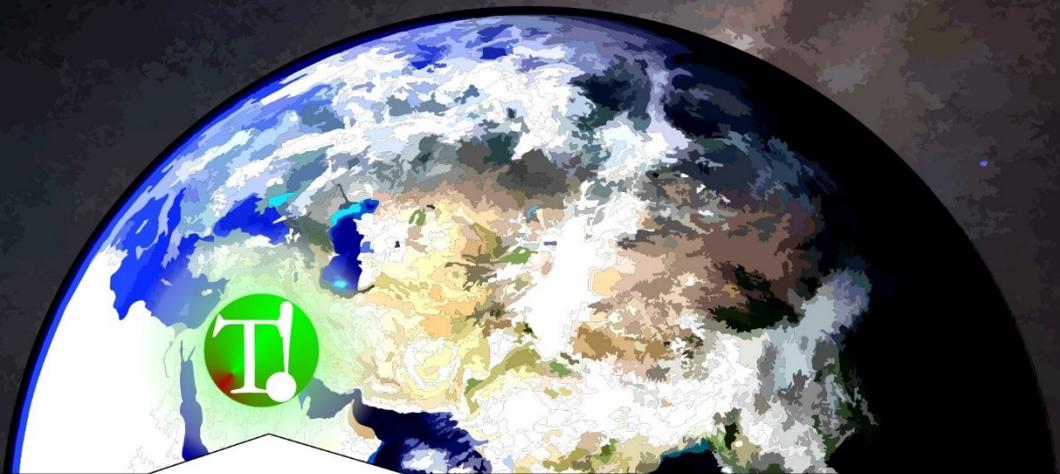
These forces of selfishness started to win elections in democracies. They rose to power in non-democracies.

Scientists were pushed aside. Scientific studies were ignored.

Facts no longer mattered. Only the argument that selfishness was good and the future would be great.

Even worse than the current future path, this more selfish path would be a more destructive path.





And so, sadly, they chose badly. Very badly.

They chose a selfish future path even more destructive than their current future's path.

They chose the path leading to their destruction. To extinction.

Many wanted the thriving path, but they did not 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?

For Earth, here is the tragic result. Here is the tragic story.

Earth and humans begin path to extinction.



Hu - a ghostly spirit of a human being

Over the past year, first signs that something is terribly wrong.

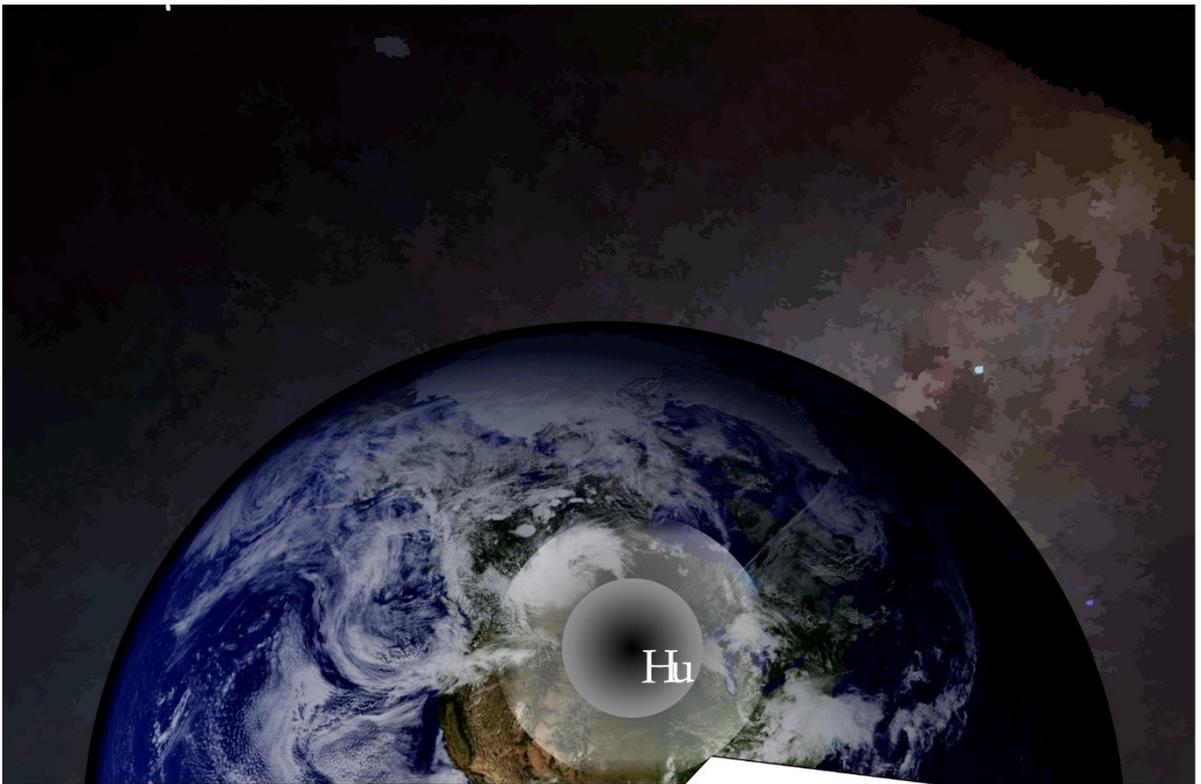
Air is a bit more polluted. Skies darken. The sun makes its way through the darkened skies on few days. More crops fail. More animals and plants of all kinds decline. Fuel of all kinds are produced in smaller and smaller amounts. The water is more polluted and more scarce. More groundwater disappears. Weather both warms and is more erratic – much more severe and devastating weather. Glaciers and ice shelves melt faster, producing more icebergs and rising oceans.

Even with these warning signs, Earth's population grows at historically high rates.

Personal safety deteriorates as more and more people fear for their and their families survival.

Governments are angrier and more threatening to their neighbors and anyone still holding valuable natural resources.



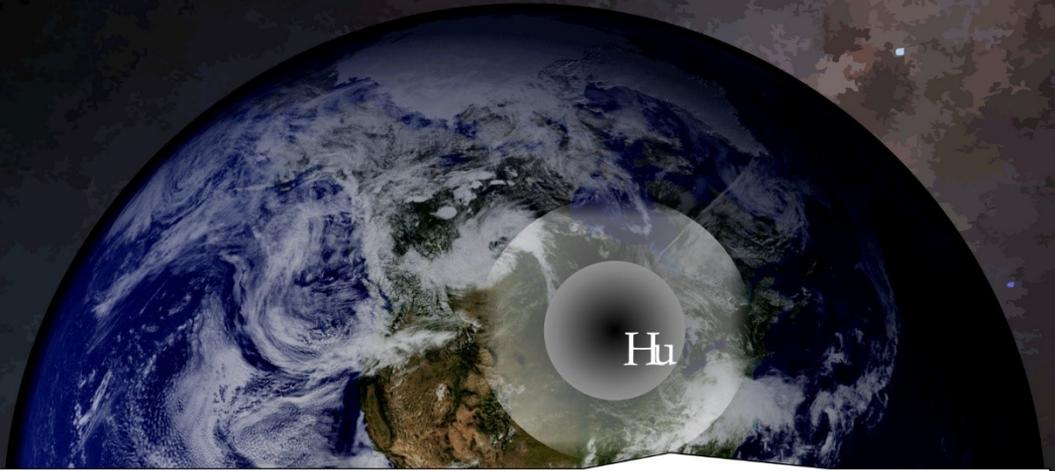


Here I, supposedly one of the world's great thinkers, sit in my university office perplexed and dying. I know what was supposed to happen. Why didn't it.

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.

To truly satisfy this need and desire, we, as a person and a people, need to survive and desire to thrive. We depend on other persons for survival and thriving, especially in the long term. Our need and desire applies to both the current and future world. Our future survival and thriving depends on there being a future world. And, our future world must be sustainable and sustained to fully meet our need and desire.

But this thriving future will not happen. 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 already exhausted Earth. We were foolish. We ran out of time.



I sit with my esteemed colleagues. Three Nobel scientists and me.

We huddle over one powerful computer. We scan and analyze data over and over again. We look at each other. We lower our heads almost simultaneously. Despair.

Over the past month, it became clear to us that we are in midst of a global catastrophe. We are clear there is no solution. As smart as we are, we have no good answers.

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. Soon they will learn just how foolish they were.

The end is coming and soon. It will be extinction for the human species. It will essentially be extinction for Earth.

We remember all the words.

The world is going bad. The world is going great. New leaders with new or old ideas.

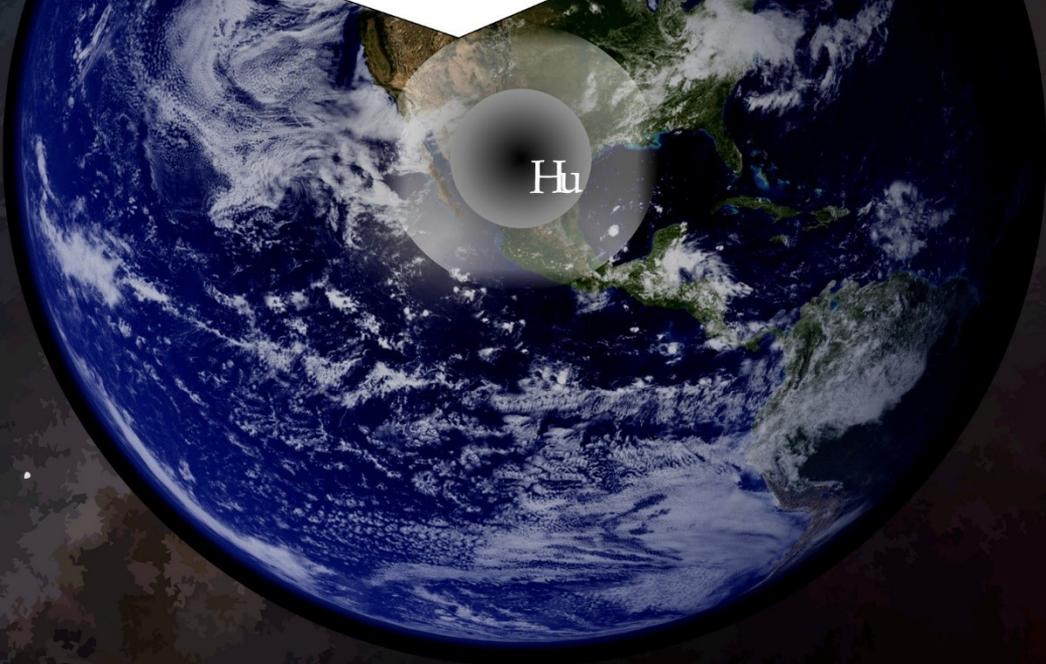
Some leaders promise we can have it all. It's all right to be selfish.

Don't worry about tomorrow. We will be great.

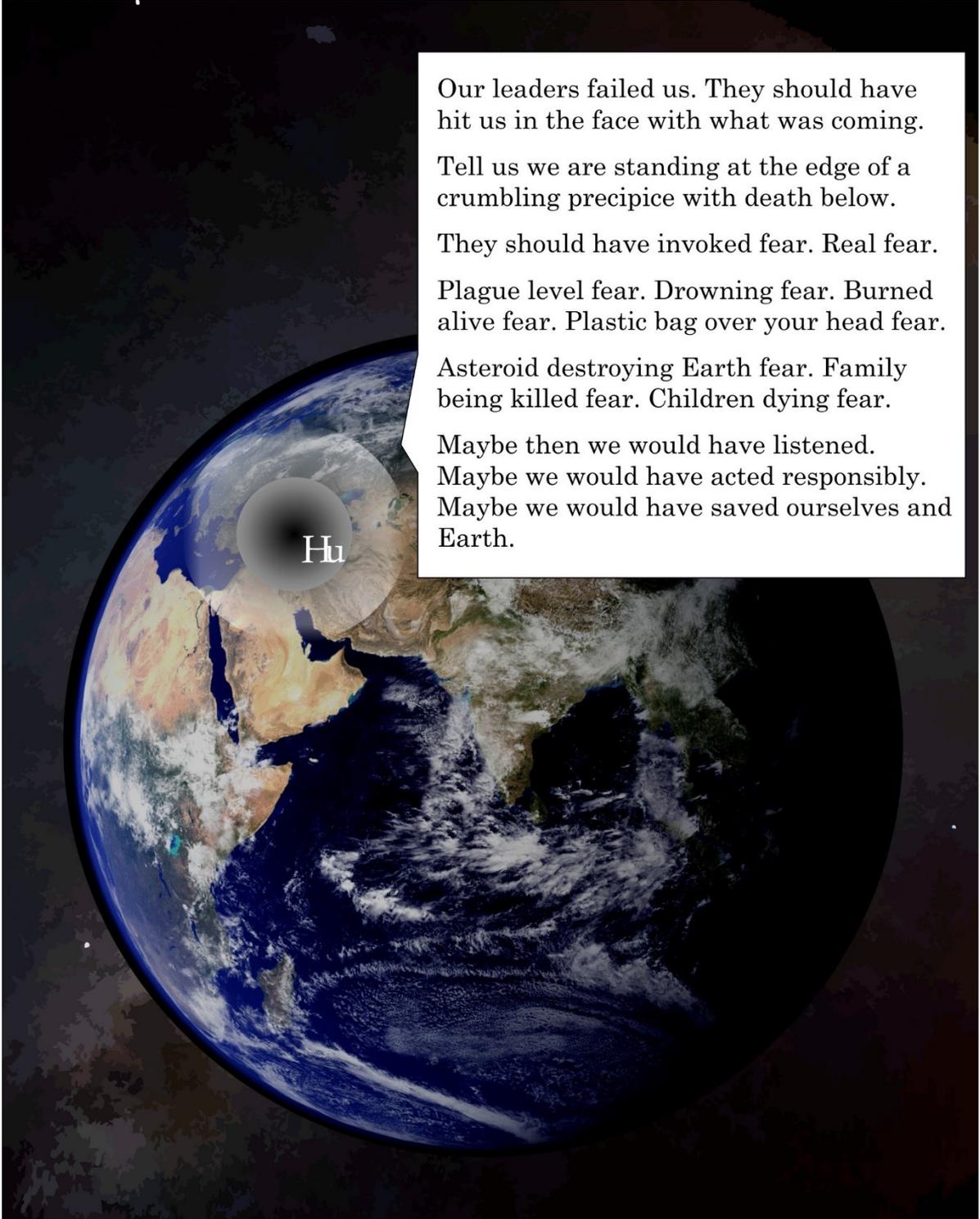
But this morning feels different. Not in a good way. Something is not right. It feels like a day of reckoning. Feels like bad.

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

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



Hu



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

Tell us we are 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.

Maybe then we would have listened.

Maybe we would have acted responsibly.

Maybe we would have saved ourselves and Earth.

Path to extinction accelerates. Earth darkens.



It was like we had finally scared Earth. Like Earth realized its death was coming.

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

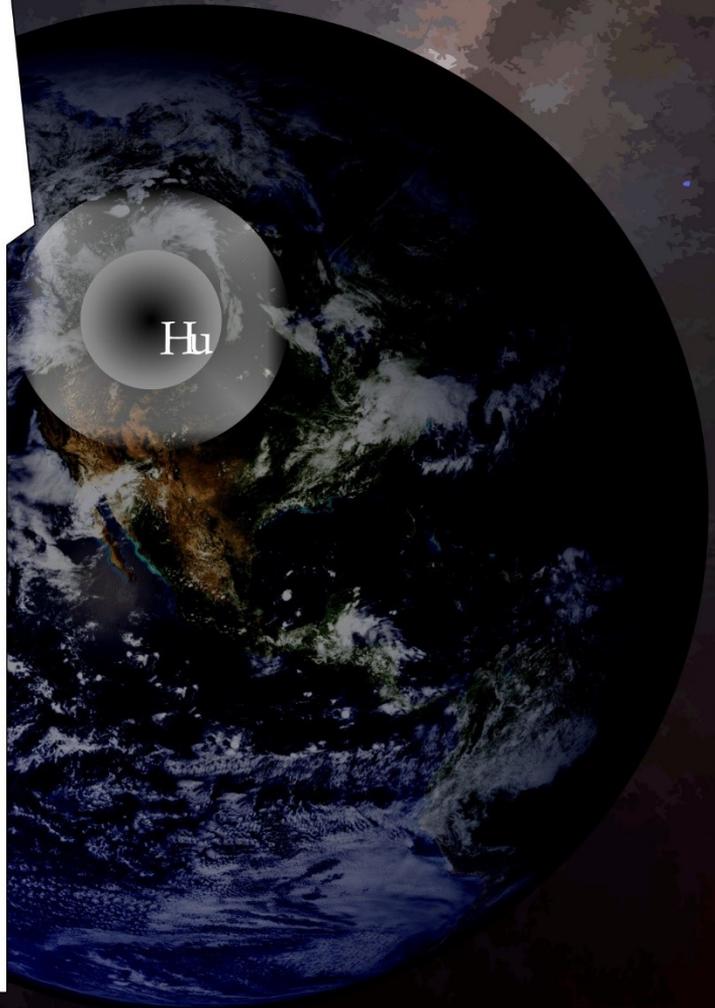
Earth gave up on humans. And then it gave up.

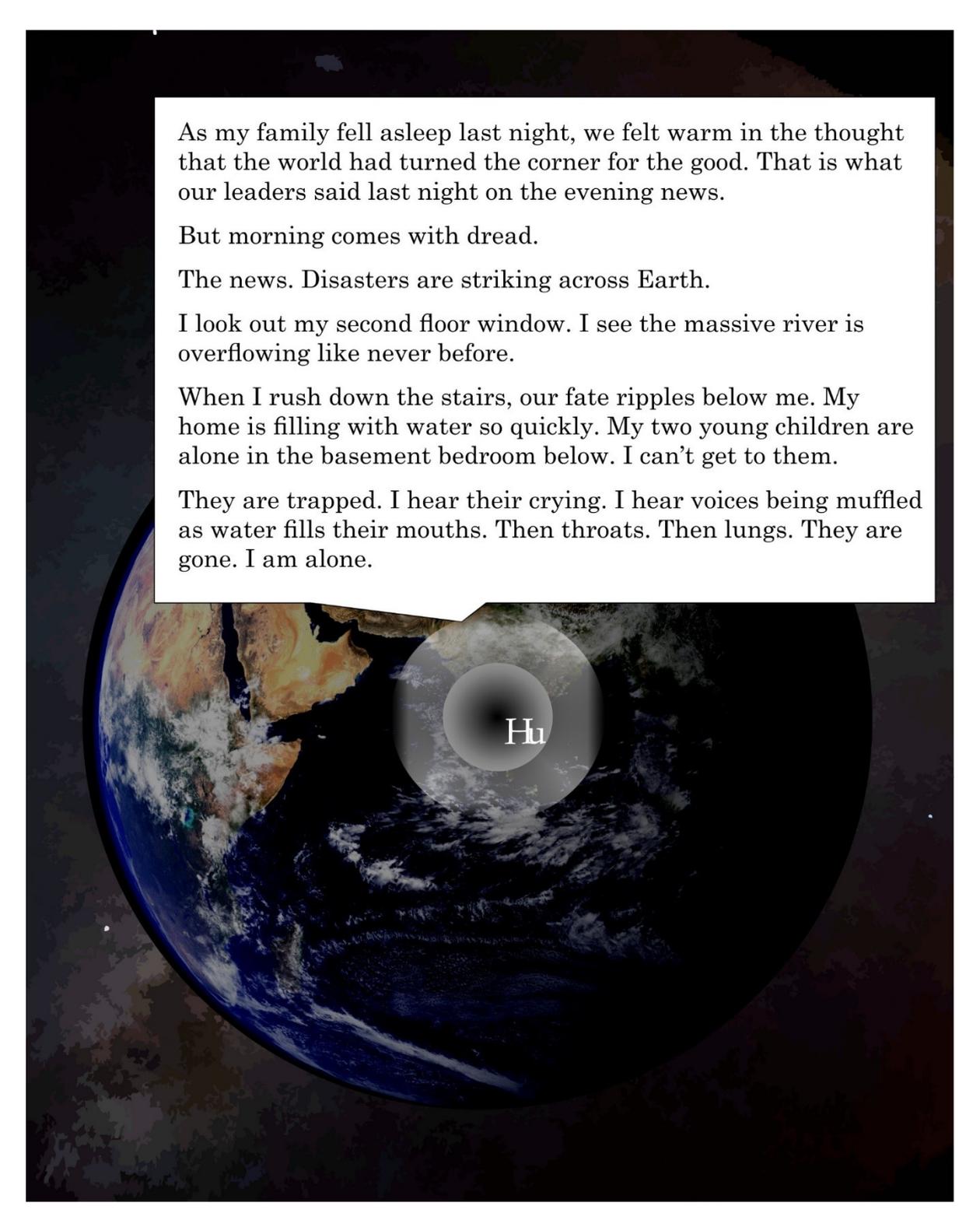
It began to wither. It began to die. Not slowly as humans thought. But quickly. Very quickly.

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.





As my family fell asleep last night, we felt warm in the thought that the world had turned the corner for the good. That is what our leaders said last night on the evening news.

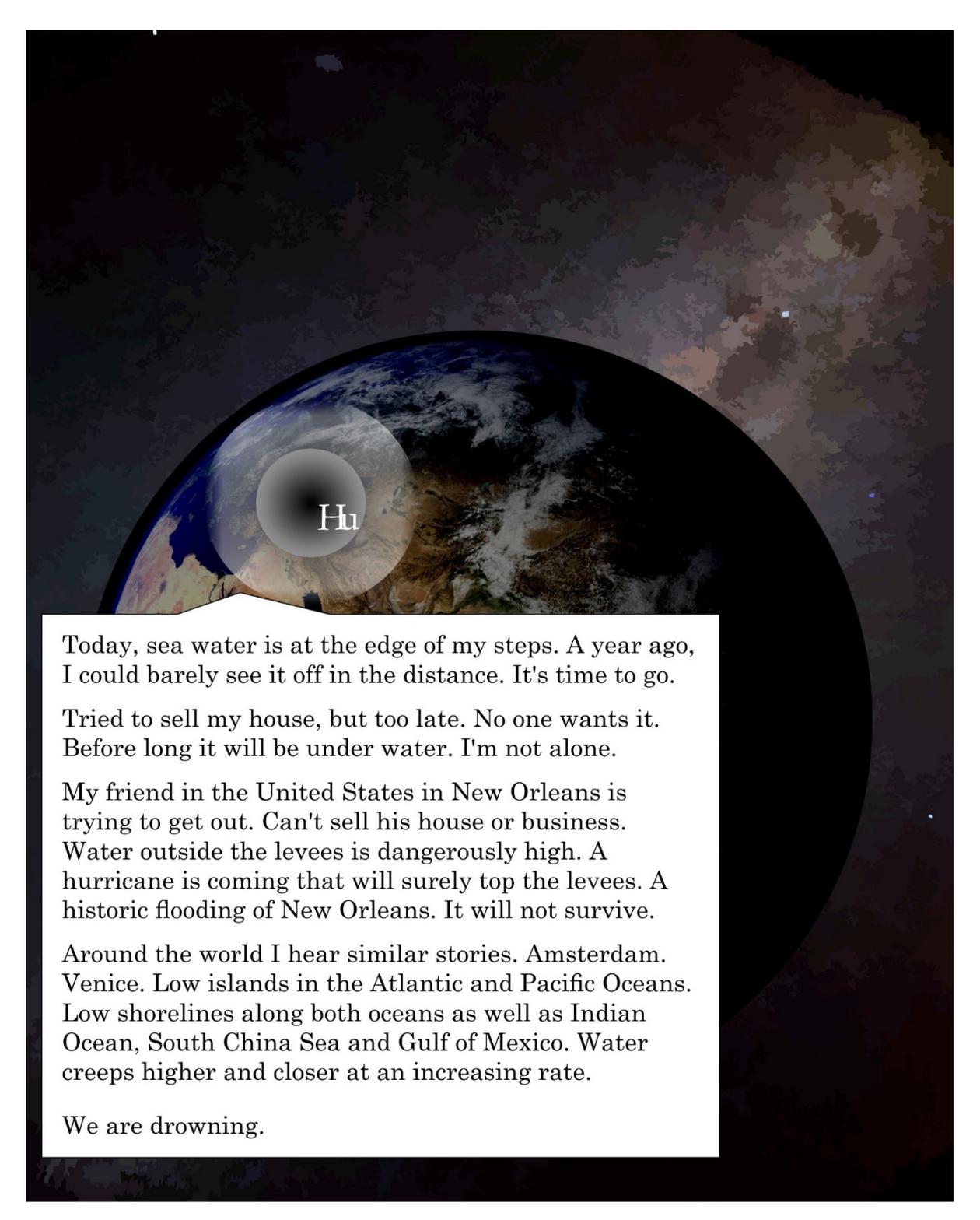
But morning comes with dread.

The news. Disasters are 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.

They are trapped. I hear their crying. I hear voices being muffled as water fills their mouths. Then throats. Then lungs. They are gone. I am alone.



Hu

Today, sea water is at the edge of my steps. A year ago, I could barely see it off in the distance. It's time to go.

Tried to sell my house, but too late. No one wants it. Before long it will be under water. I'm not alone.

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

Around the world I hear similar stories. Amsterdam. Venice. Low islands in the 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.

We are drowning.

Mommy and Daddy are acting strange. Why?

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

Summer wasn't much fun. Daddy and Mommy wouldn't let me go to the playground. Made me stay inside most times. Didn't get to see my friends.

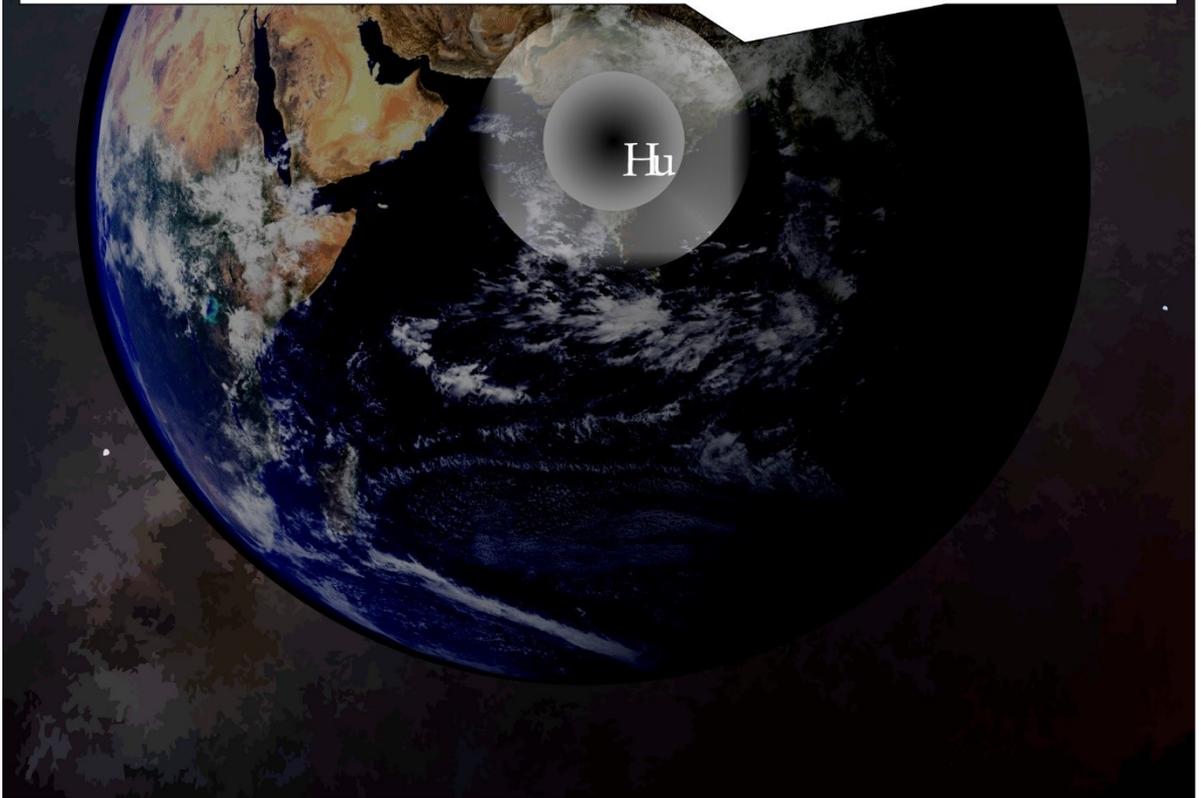
I know the air smells bad. The water tastes bad. And I am hungry most of the time. But still. They're my friends.

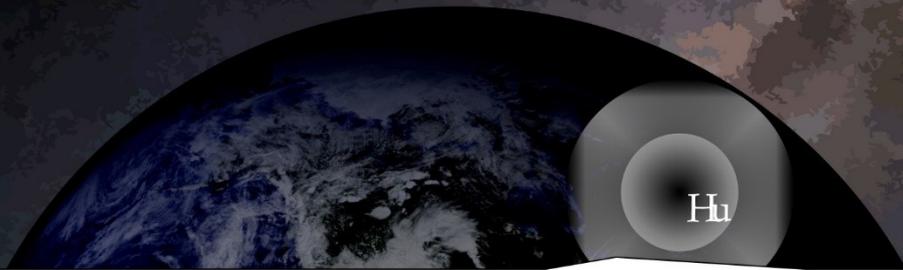
I want to go to school. Kindergarten was so much fun.

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?"

What do they mean? No school ever! I don't understand. How am I supposed to get smart? How am I to see my friends? I don't understand.





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

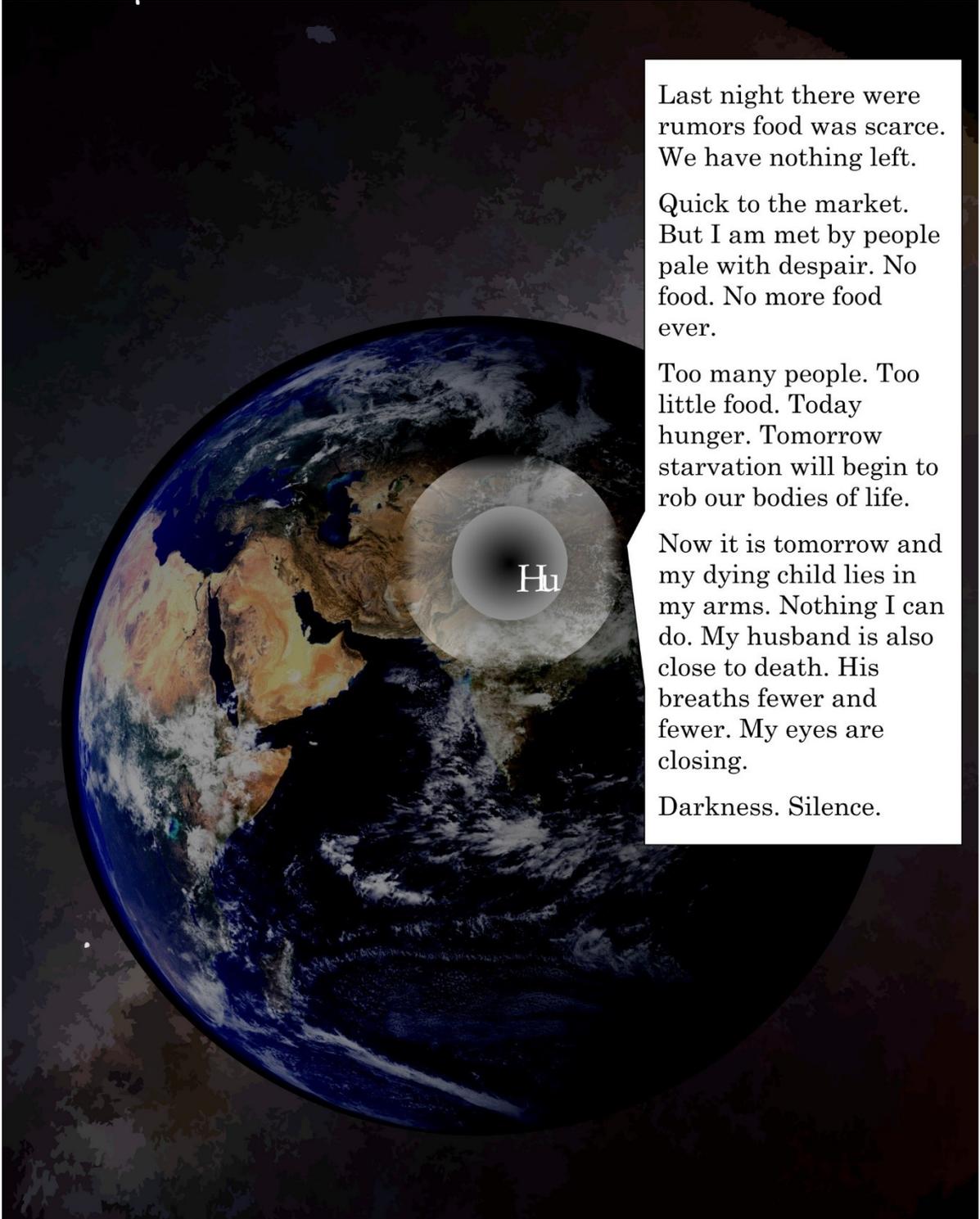
Result. Ocean waters rising rapidly. Many, many icebergs hampering ocean travel. Ships and people lost.

Almost midnight here in the middle of the north Atlantic. We are one of the last passenger ships attempting an Atlantic crossing. We have assurances it will be a safe crossing.

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

Then a thud as we bump 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 tries to stop. Too late. Two large icebergs just below the water line pinch the ship's hull. Then rip the hull on both sides. Water rushes in. Too quickly to abandon ship. The ship sinks so terribly quickly. No chance to save anyone. No chance in the icy waters. Cold, so terribly cold.



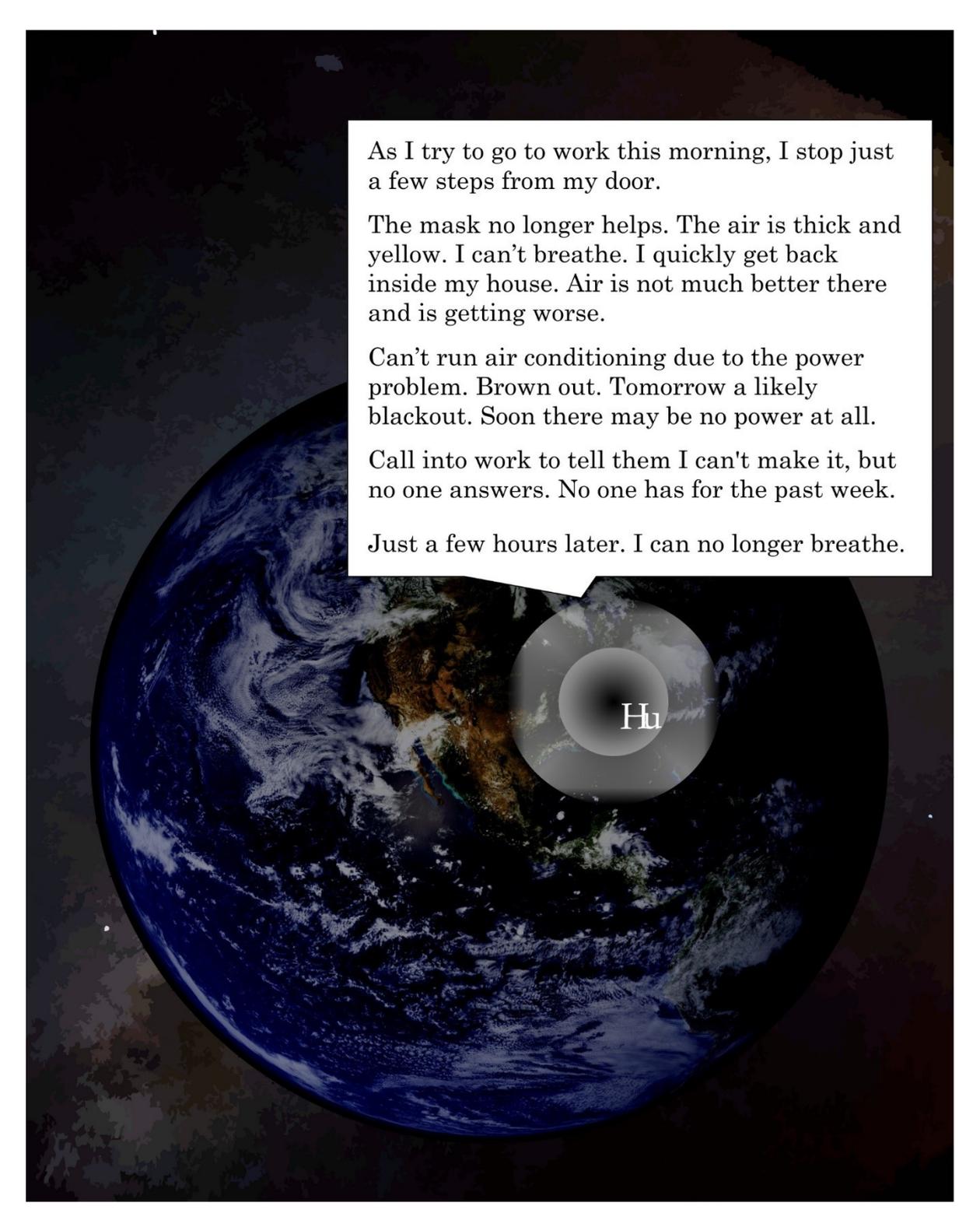
Last night there were rumors food was scarce. We have nothing left.

Quick to the market. But I am met by people pale with despair. No food. No more food ever.

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

Now it is tomorrow and my dying child lies in my arms. Nothing I can do. My husband is also close to death. His breaths fewer and fewer. My eyes are closing.

Darkness. Silence.



As I try to go to work this morning, I stop just a few steps from my door.

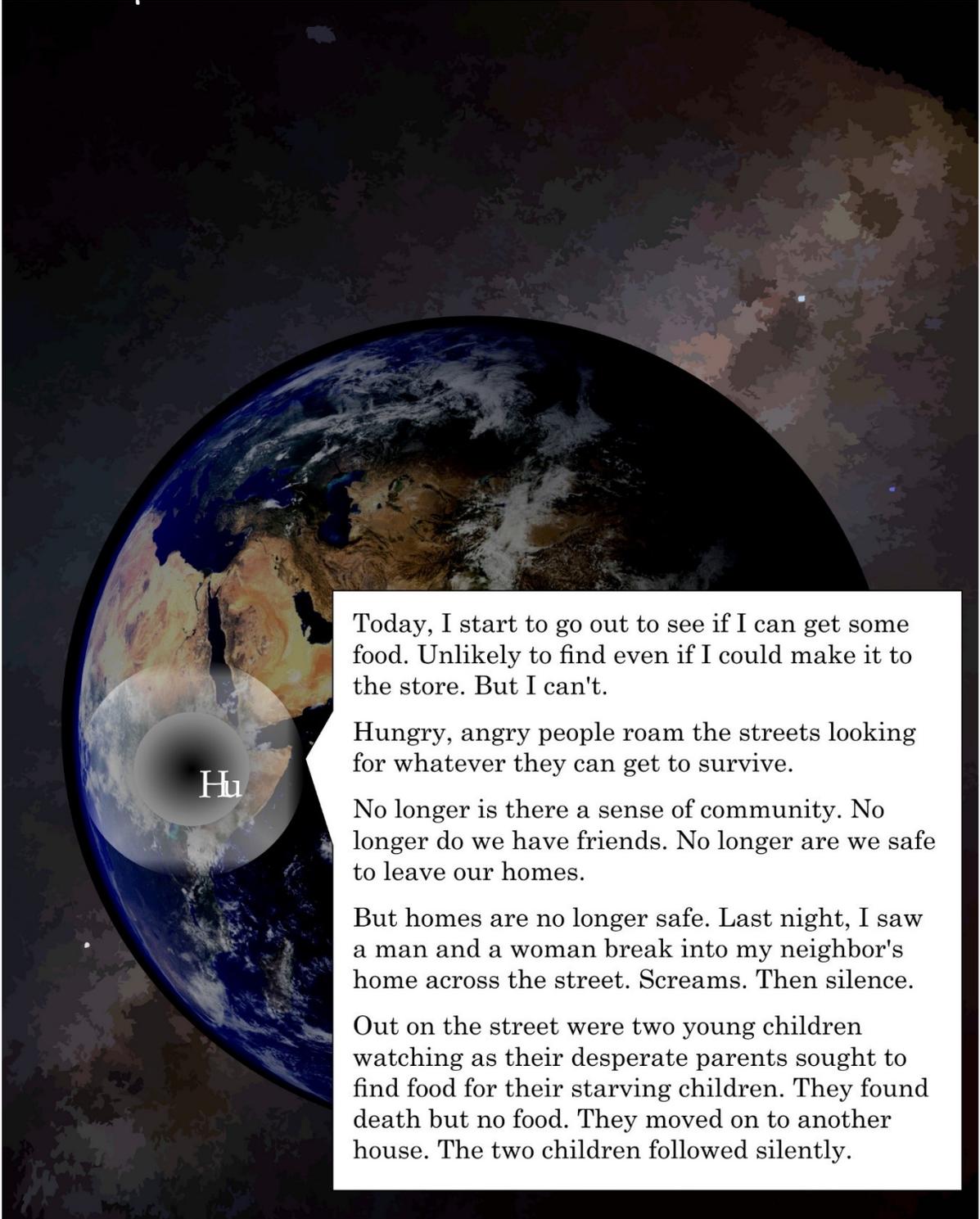
The mask no longer helps. The air is thick and yellow. I can't breathe. I quickly get back inside my house. Air is not much better there and is getting worse.

Can't run air conditioning due to the power problem. Brown out. Tomorrow a likely blackout. Soon there may be no power at all.

Call into work to tell them I can't make it, but no one answers. No one has for the past week.

Just a few hours later. I can no longer breathe.

Hu



Hu

Today, I start to go out to see if I can get some food. Unlikely to find even if I could make it to the store. But I can't.

Hungry, angry people roam the streets looking for whatever they can get to survive.

No longer is there a sense of community. No longer do we have friends. No longer are we safe to leave our homes.

But homes are no longer safe. Last 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.



As I got out of bed
this morning, no
power again. At
noon, another
brownout or worse.
Later today I expect
a full blackout.

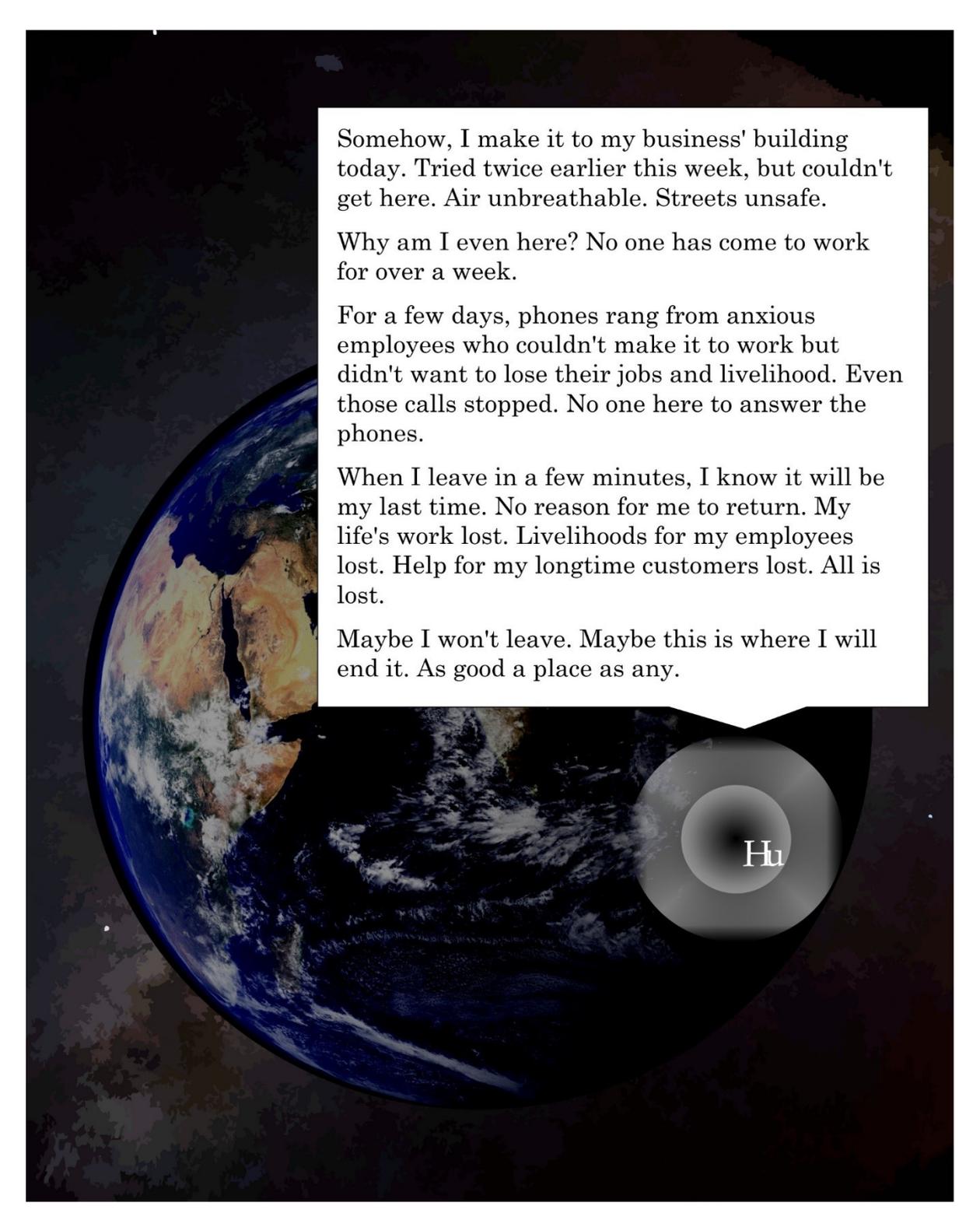
Starting tomorrow,
there will be no
power at all. No
more power ever.

No air conditioning.
The heat is
unbearable here in
Arizona.

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

I may burn up in
the same year that
my friends freeze to
death. No safe place
to go.

Hu



Somehow, I make it to my business' building today. Tried twice earlier this week, but couldn't get here. Air unbreathable. Streets unsafe.

Why am I even here? No one has 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. No one here to answer the phones.

When I leave in a few minutes, I know it will 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 is lost.

Maybe I won't leave. Maybe this is where I will end it. As good a place as any.

Hu

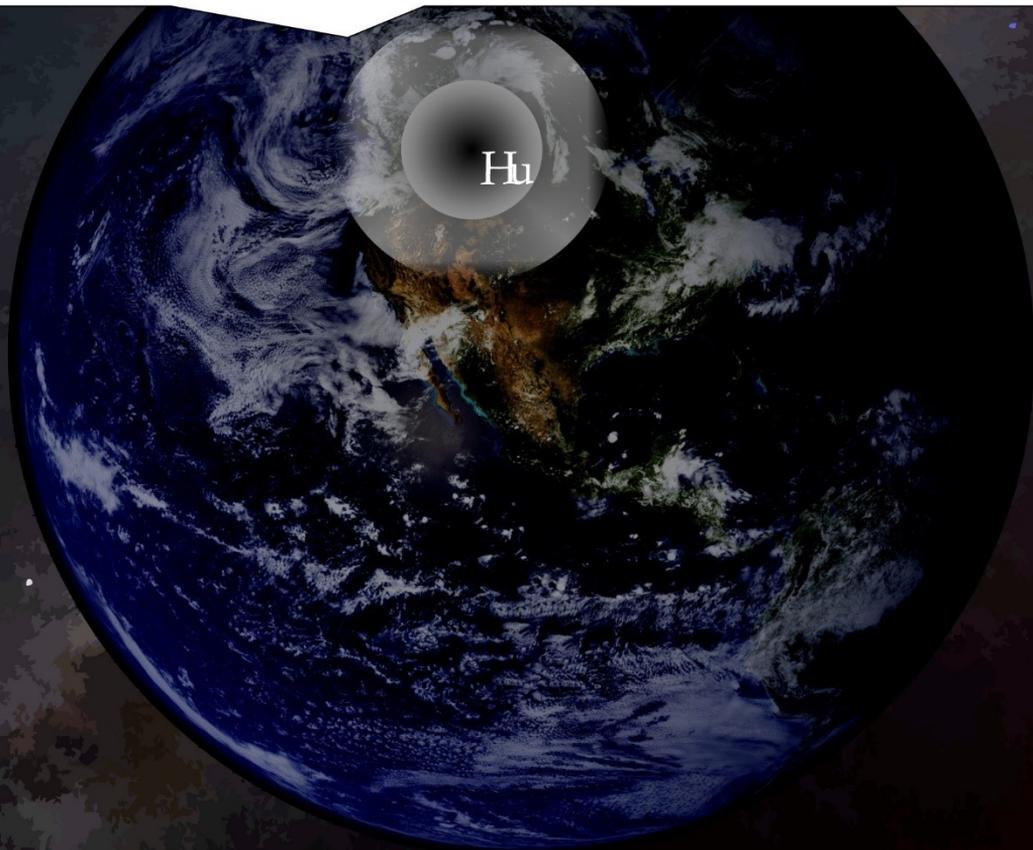
Much of my hope relied on my solar panels and batteries. Surely, there would be enough sun to keep my energy efficient home functioning.

So wrong. Little sun is making it through the dark skies. Little new solar energy being generated. Batteries almost depleted.

No energy, no refrigerator. No water being pumped. No stove or microwave. No internet. No way to use or charge phones. No security system protection.

I thought I had myself protected. I was wrong. I will just last a little longer than some.

I fear my neighbors who already have lost all this and are becoming increasingly desperate. But, then again, they may already be dead.



But I am only 13 years old! I have only kissed one boy, a very innocent kiss. He is dead. I am alone.

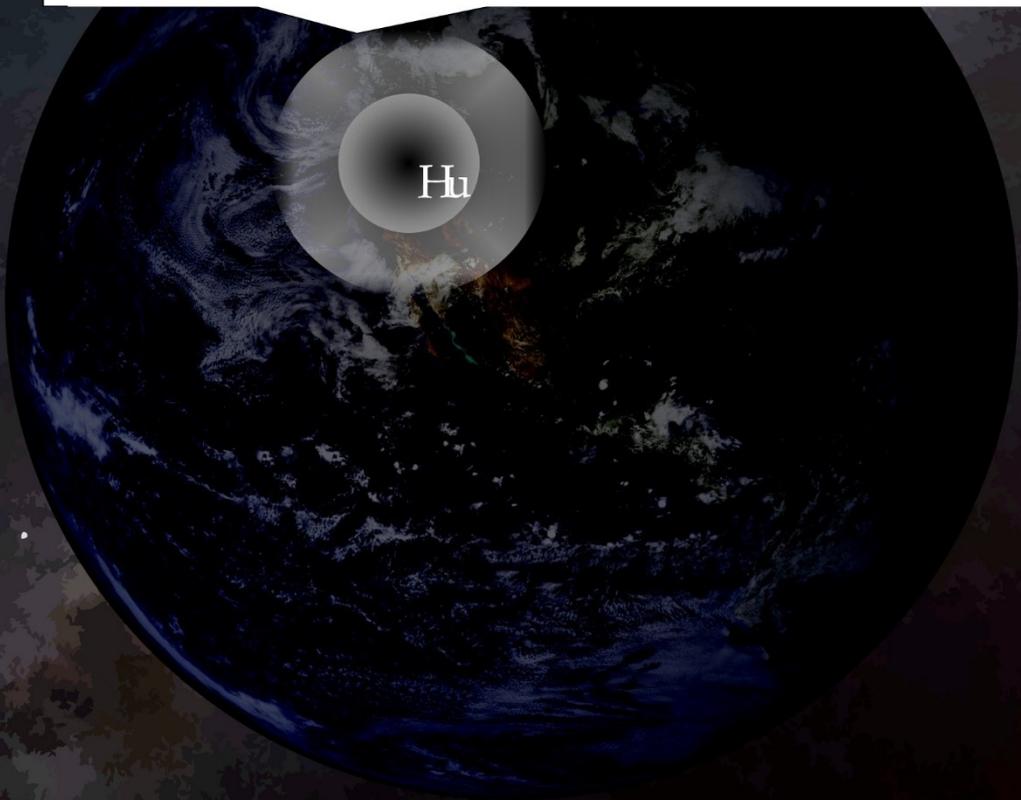
My parents died last week. My brother died last night. I am alone.

Where is the future I was promised? Where is the future I deserve?

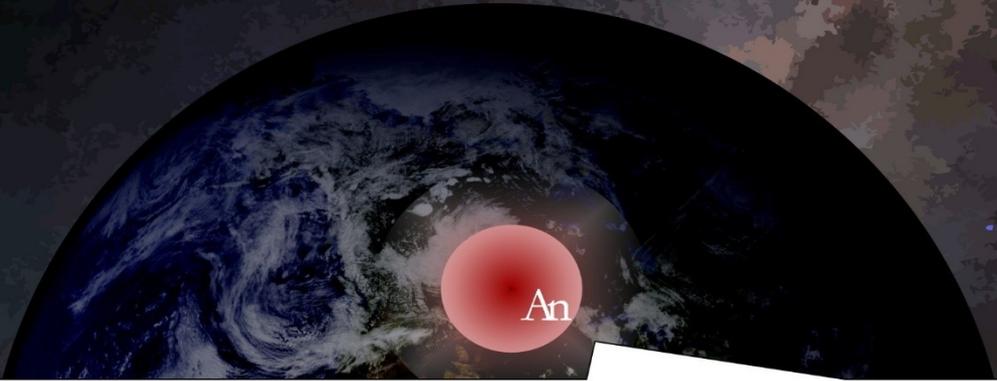
Who took it? Why did they take it? Why did they fail to act? Why did they let all of us down? Why did they fail to nurture Earth?

Were they that stupid? Were they that selfish?

I sit here in my classroom. No living classmates. I am alone. I am dying. I wait for the end. I wait for my end.



Hu



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.

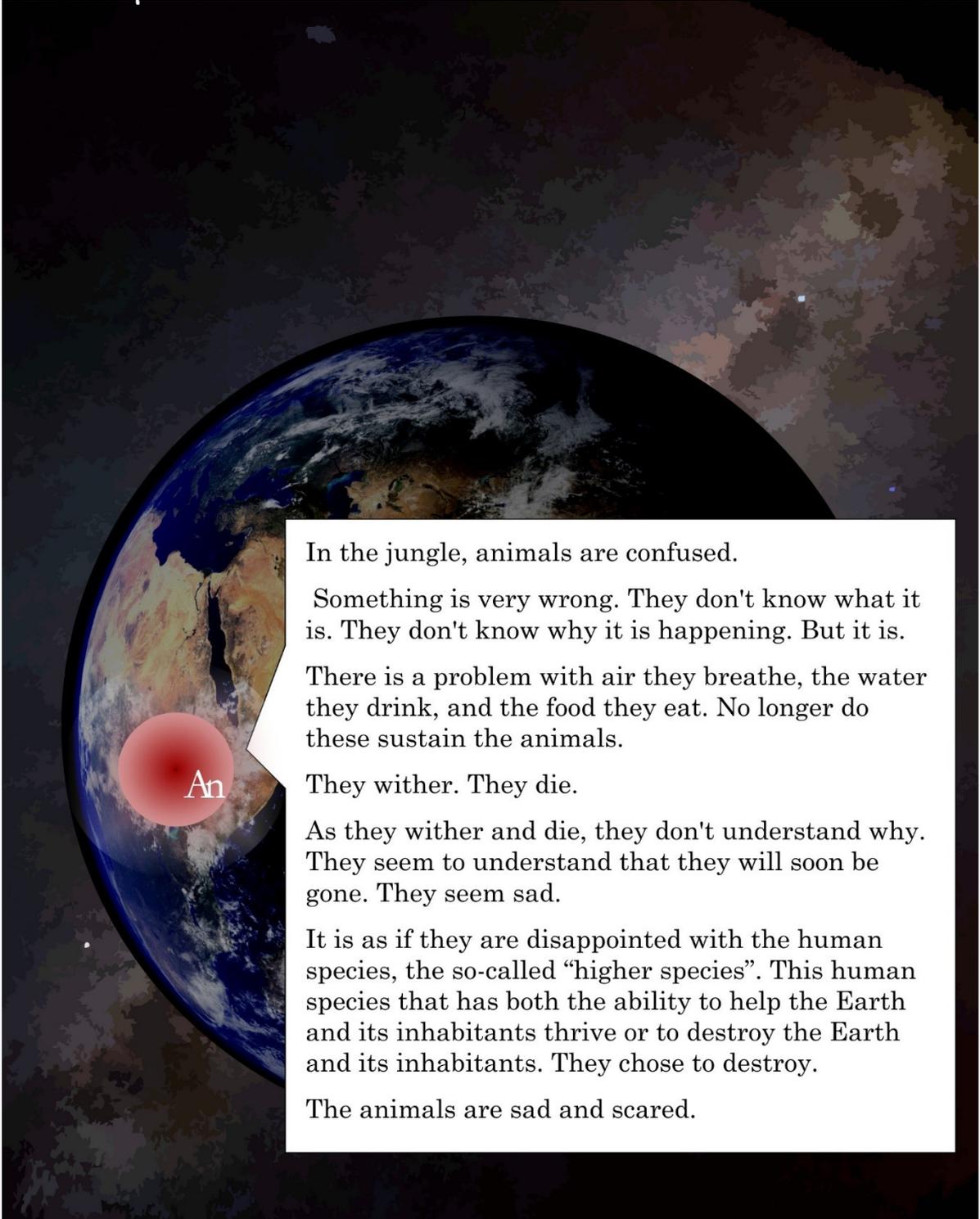
Where is the farmer? For weeks, the farmer has not come to feed them.
Not come to milk them.

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 the cows heard loud
sounds, like the sounds when the farmer hunted for gentle deer.

Then there was silence. Then there was no more food.

Now there would be a slow death for the softly mooing cows.



An

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.

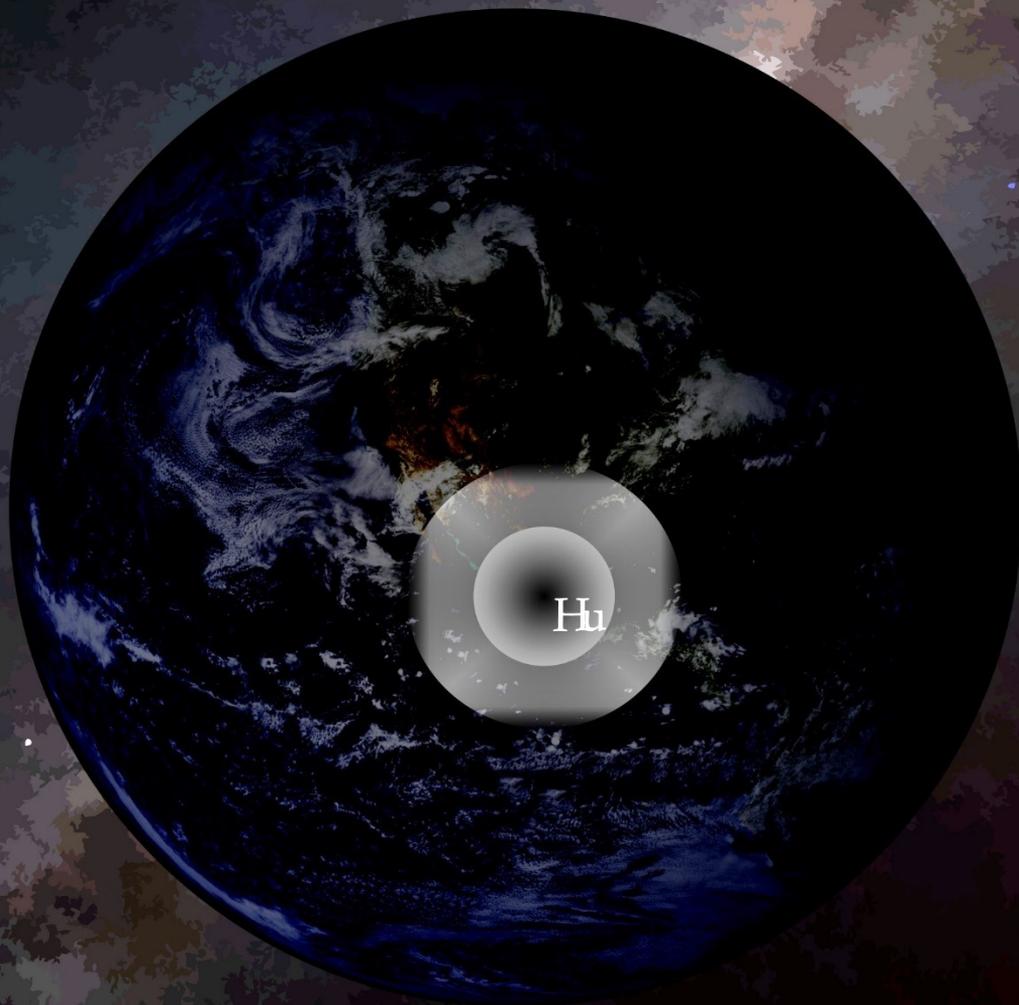
They wither. They die.

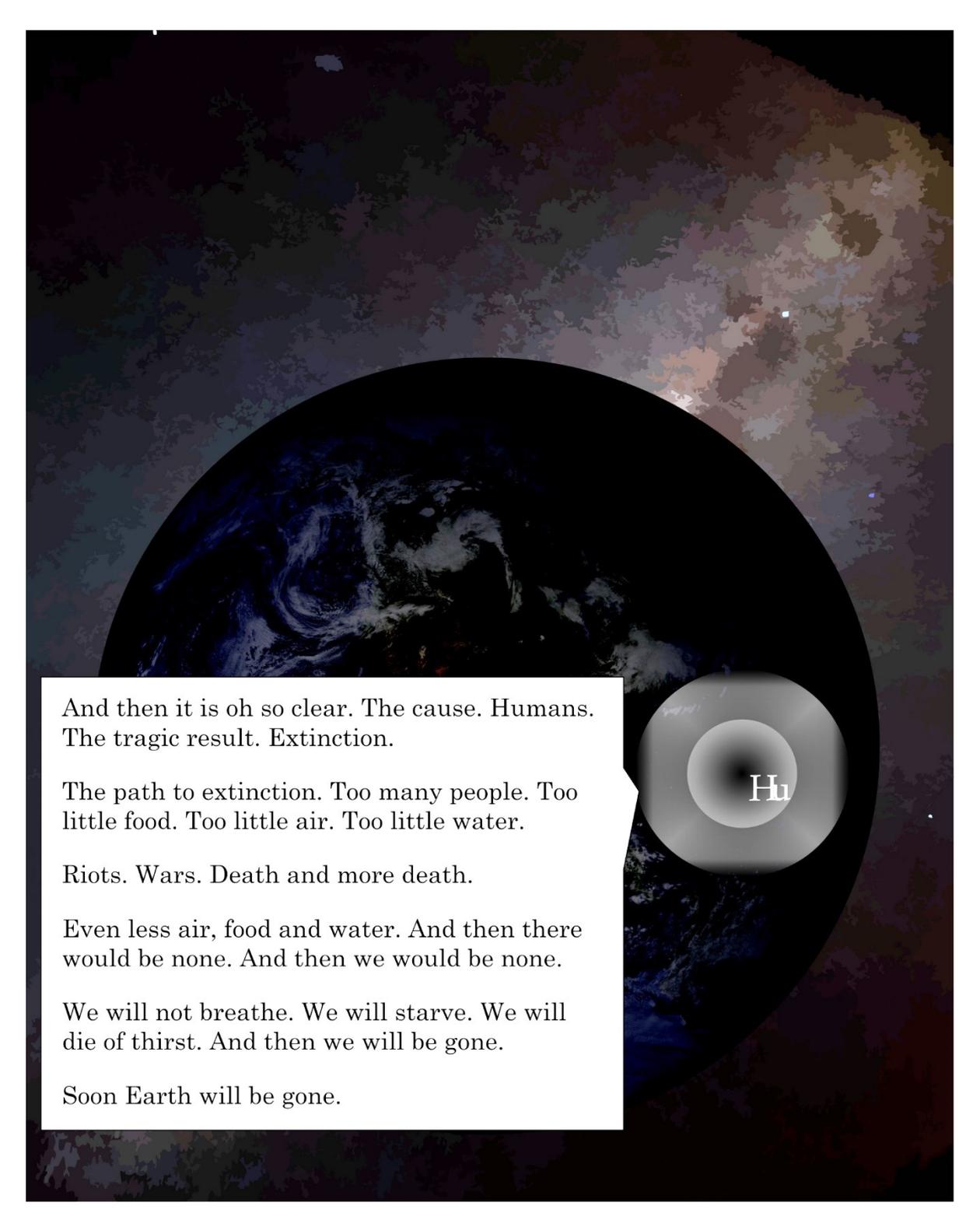
As they wither and die, they don't understand why. They seem to understand that they will soon be gone. They seem sad.

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.

Extinction is near. Earth very dark.





And then it is oh so clear. The cause. Humans.
The tragic result. Extinction.

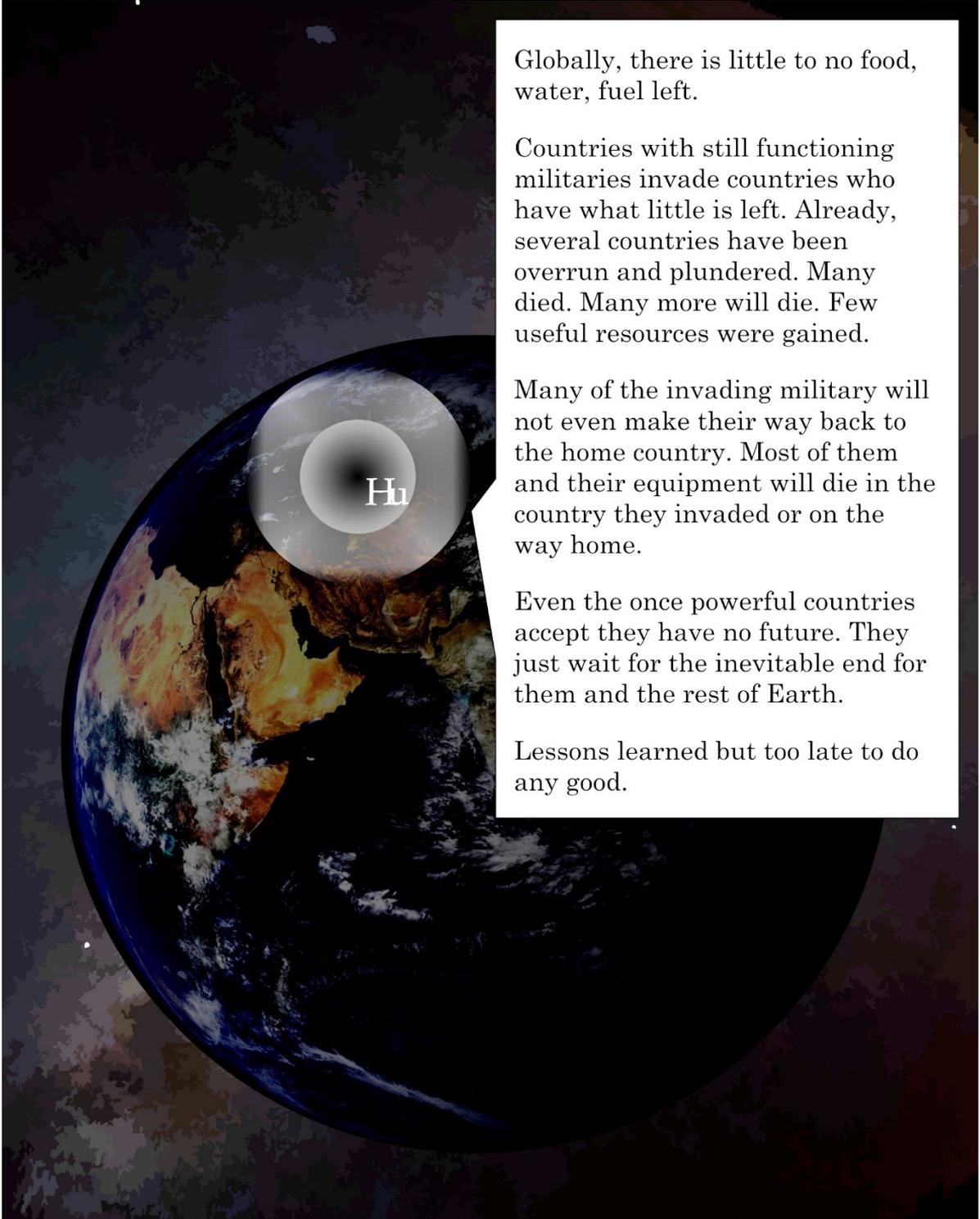
The path to extinction. Too many people. Too
little food. Too little air. Too little water.

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.



Globally, there is little to no food, water, fuel left.

Countries with still functioning militaries invade countries who have what little is left. Already, several countries have been overrun and plundered. Many died. Many more will die. Few useful resources were gained.

Many of the invading military will not even make their way back to the home country. Most of them and their equipment will die in the country they invaded or on the way home.

Even the once powerful countries accept they have no future. They just wait for the inevitable end for them and the rest of Earth.

Lessons learned but too late to do any good.

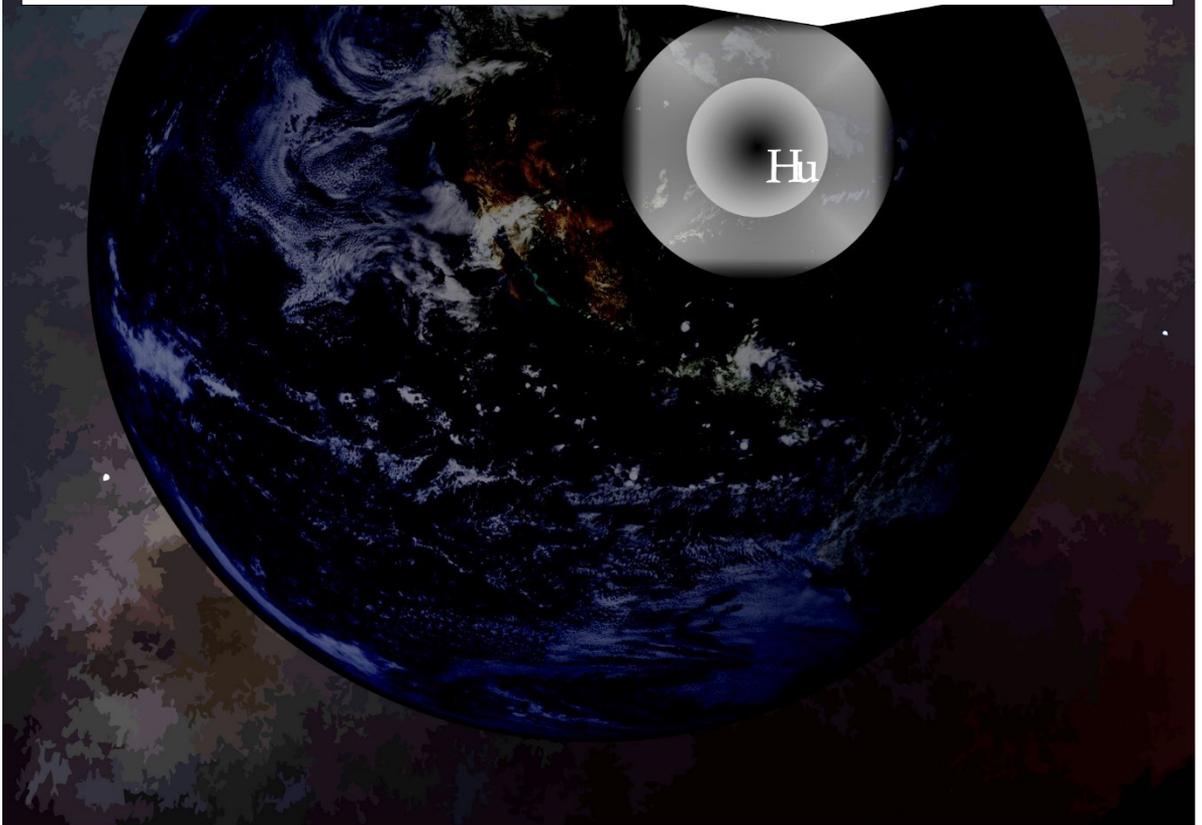
From the Oval Office looking toward the Washington Monument, I see no hope. I failed.

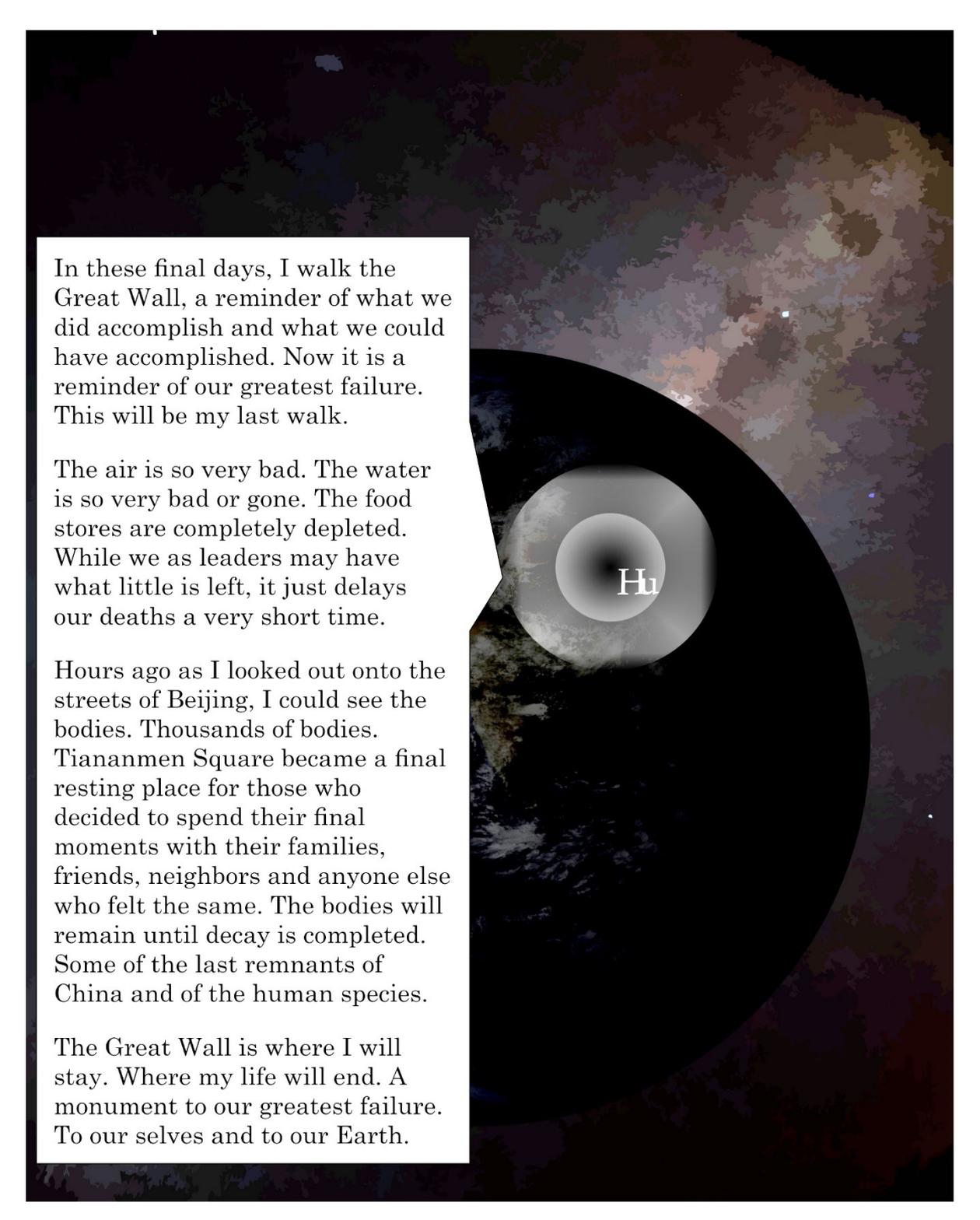
What has happened has happened so much faster than anyone predicted. Still, we should have known. We should have acted. We failed.

We didn't expect what would happen when all the pieces of our survival started to fail at the same time. The synergistic effect of these multiple failures was unstoppable and exponential. By the time we understood what was happening it was far too late.

Our smartest people tried to find a solution. Almost immediately, they turned back to us as the world's leaders, shook their heads, and called it. "Time of Death" for Earth and all its people was now. Some of us would survive several more days on what was now essentially a dead Earth.

They told us to go home. Care for our families. Prepare for extinction.



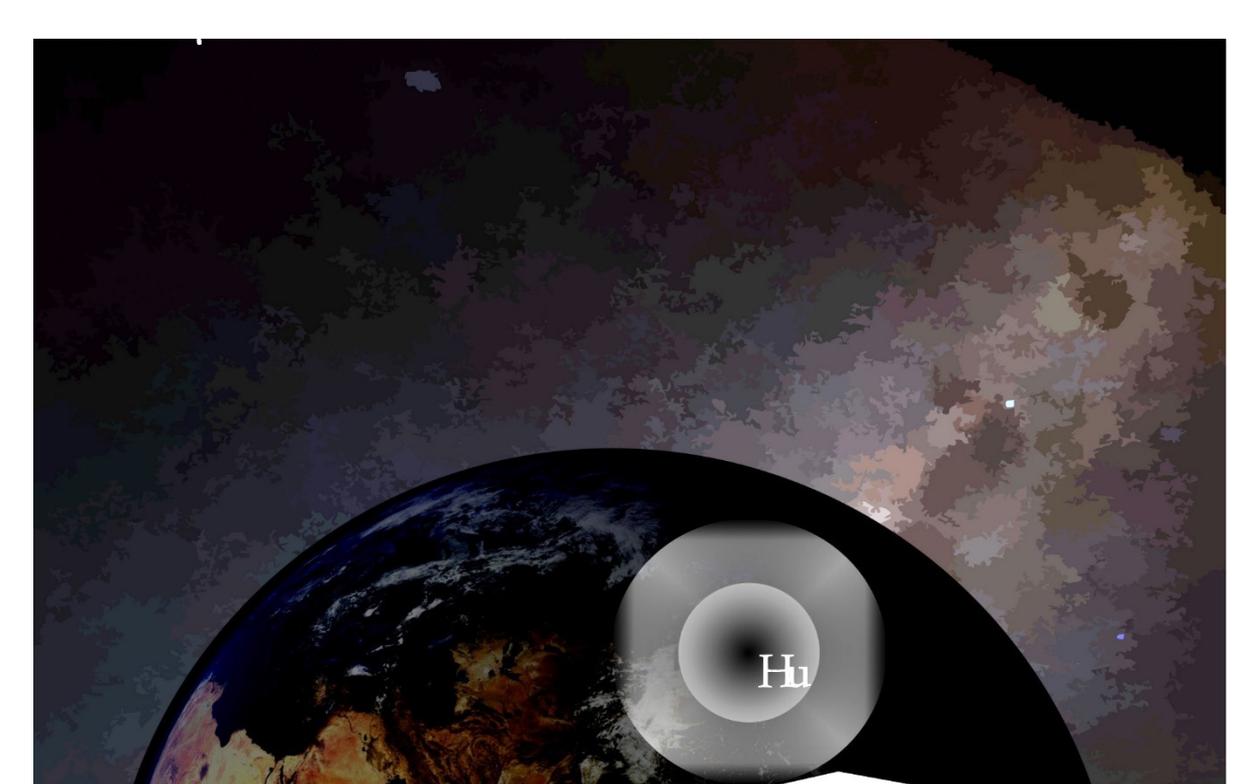


In these final days, I walk the Great Wall, a reminder of what we did accomplish and what we could have accomplished. Now it is a reminder of our greatest failure. This will be my last walk.

The air is so very bad. The water is so very bad or gone. The food stores are completely depleted. While we as leaders may have what little is left, it just delays our deaths a very short time.

Hours ago as I looked out onto the streets of Beijing, I could see the bodies. Thousands of bodies. Tiananmen Square became a final resting place for those who decided to spend their final moments with their families, friends, neighbors and anyone else who felt the same. The bodies will remain until decay is completed. Some of the last remnants of China and of the human species.

The Great Wall is where I will stay. Where my life will end. A monument to our greatest failure. To our selves and to our Earth.



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

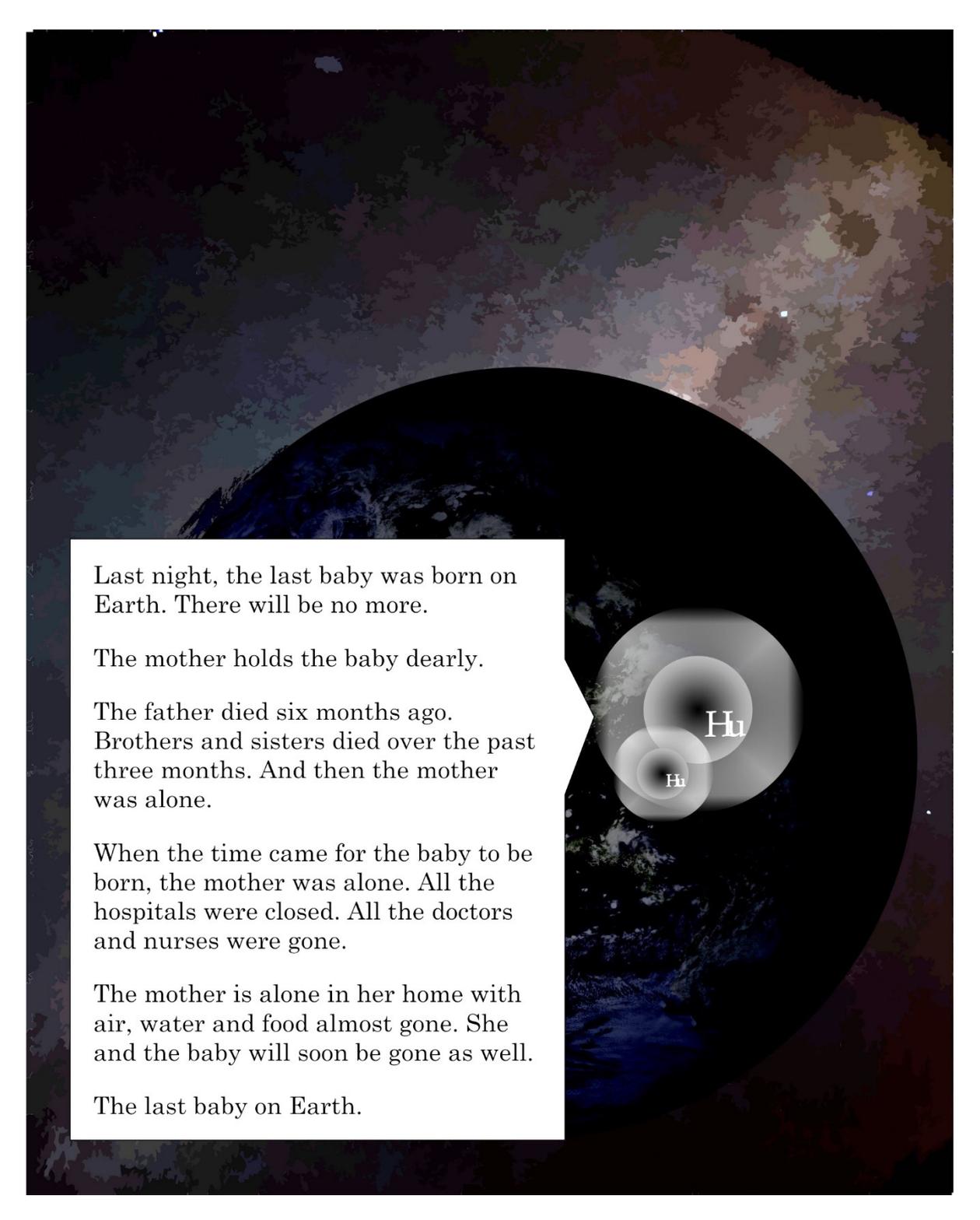
I thought I had it all figured out. Russia would once again be a world power. I just had to weaken or destroy the other world powers.

So what. To be the last great power in a world that will shortly be dead is a hollow victory.

My Russia will soon be dead. I 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 no one will remember me as a great leader. 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.



Last night, the last baby was born on Earth. There will be no more.

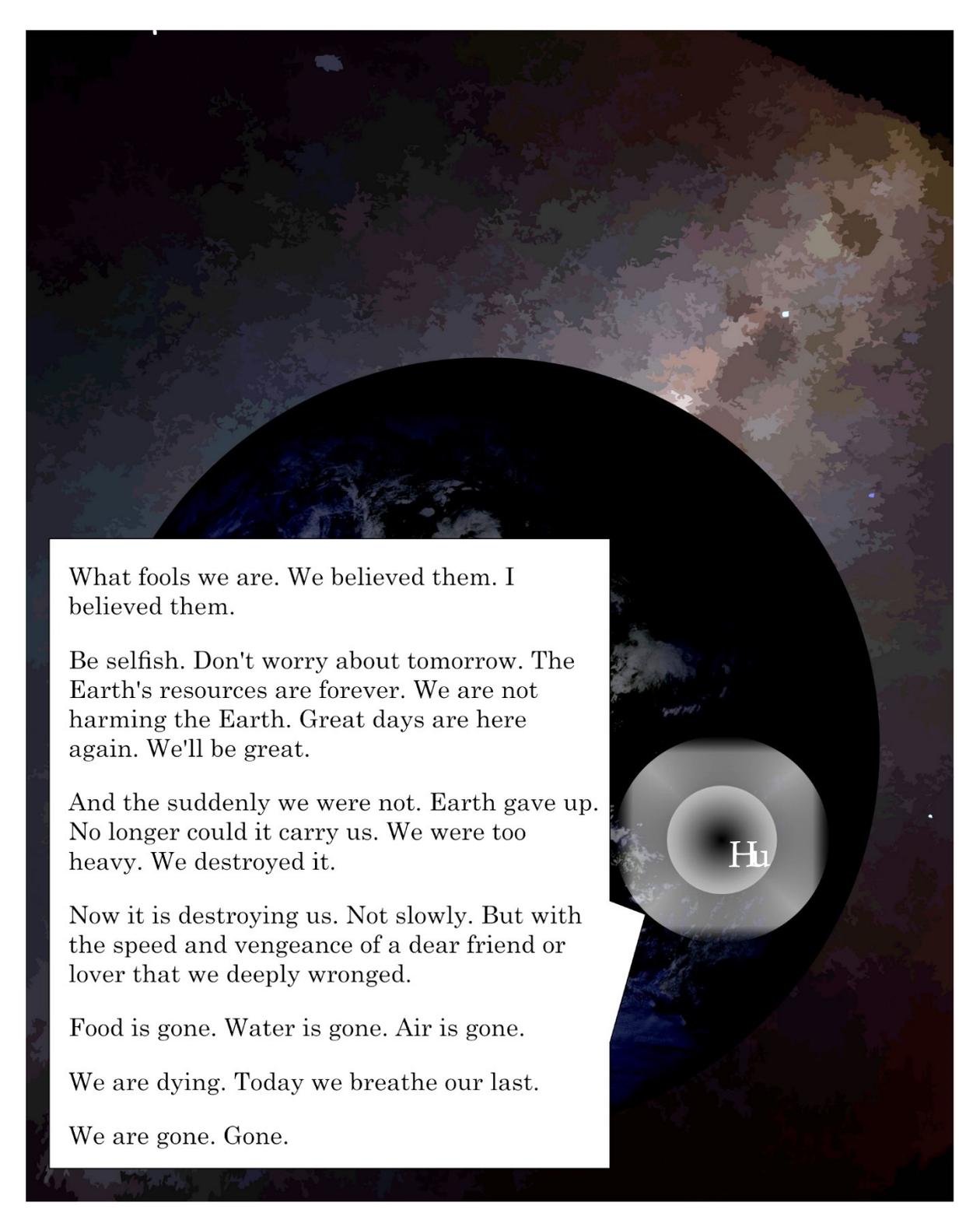
The mother holds the baby dearly.

The father died six months ago. Brothers and sisters died over the past three months. And then the mother was alone.

When the time came for the baby to be born, the mother was alone. All the hospitals were closed. All the doctors and nurses were gone.

The mother is alone in her home with air, water and food almost gone. She and the baby will soon be gone as well.

The last baby on Earth.



What fools we are. We believed them. I
believed them.

Be selfish. Don't worry about tomorrow. The
Earth's resources are forever. We are not
harming the Earth. Great days are here
again. We'll be great.

And the suddenly we were not. Earth gave up.
No longer could it carry us. We were too
heavy. We destroyed it.

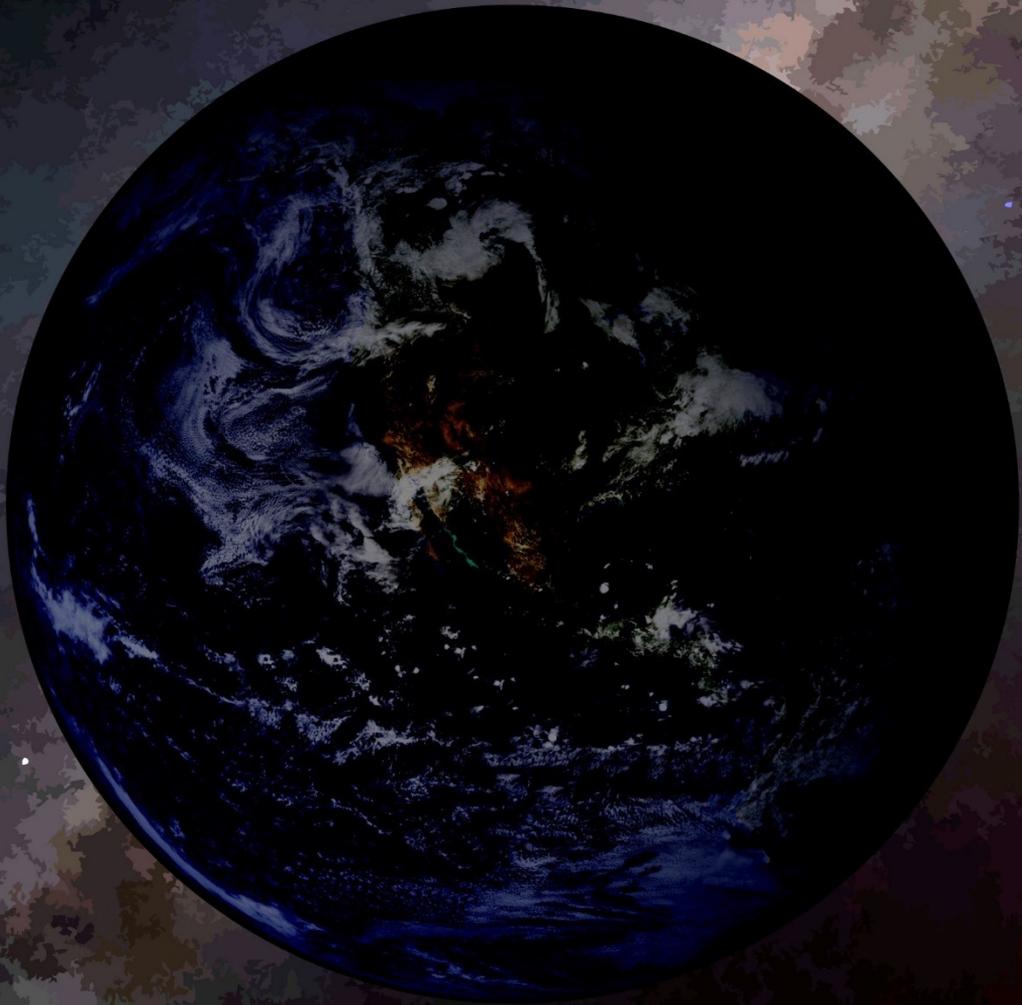
Now it is destroying us. Not slowly. But with
the speed and vengeance of a dear friend or
lover that we deeply wronged.

Food is gone. Water is gone. Air is gone.

We are dying. Today we breathe our last.

We are gone. Gone.

Earth and human extinction!



Gone.

Humans are gone. Animals and plants are gone.

Essentially, Earth is gone.

The failure to survive. The failure to thrive.

Extinction.





The human species failed to learn and failed to act in time to save themselves and their Earth.

They failed to understand that the failure to thrive is the path to extinction.

At the end and too late, some may have understood their failure. That their extinction came not from an external force or from Earth's failure. Their extinction came from the human species own failure.

All that is left is for me to share that tragic lesson with other worlds.

May there never be another failure like that of the human species and Earth. May there never be another extinction due to selfishness.

I leave now. No reason to stay.

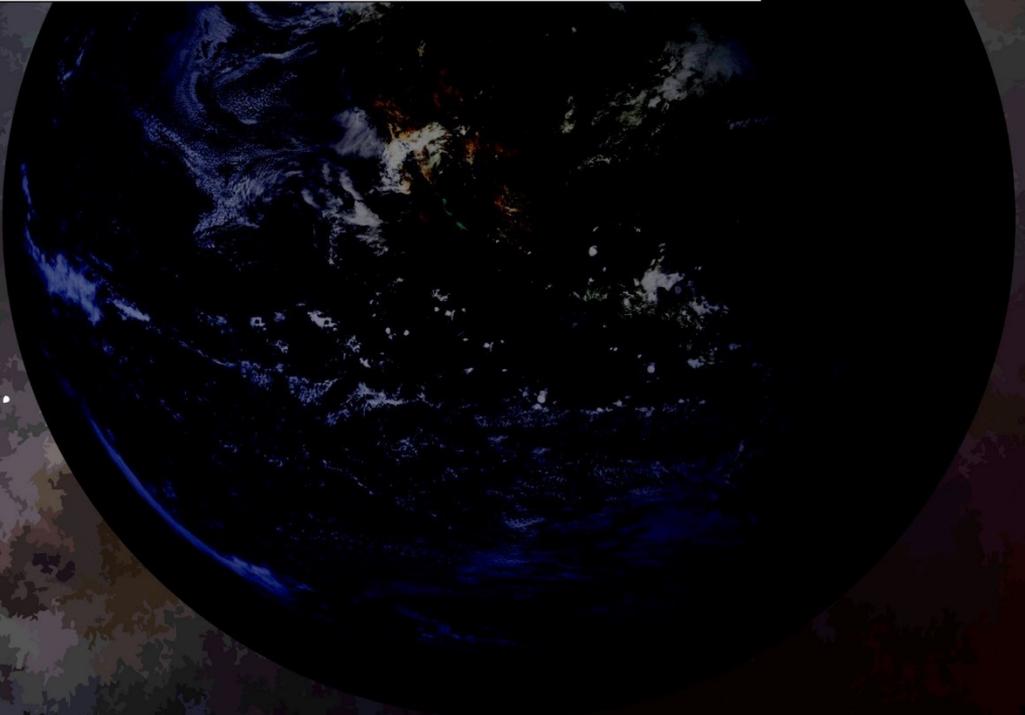
No more voices. No more ghostly whispers.

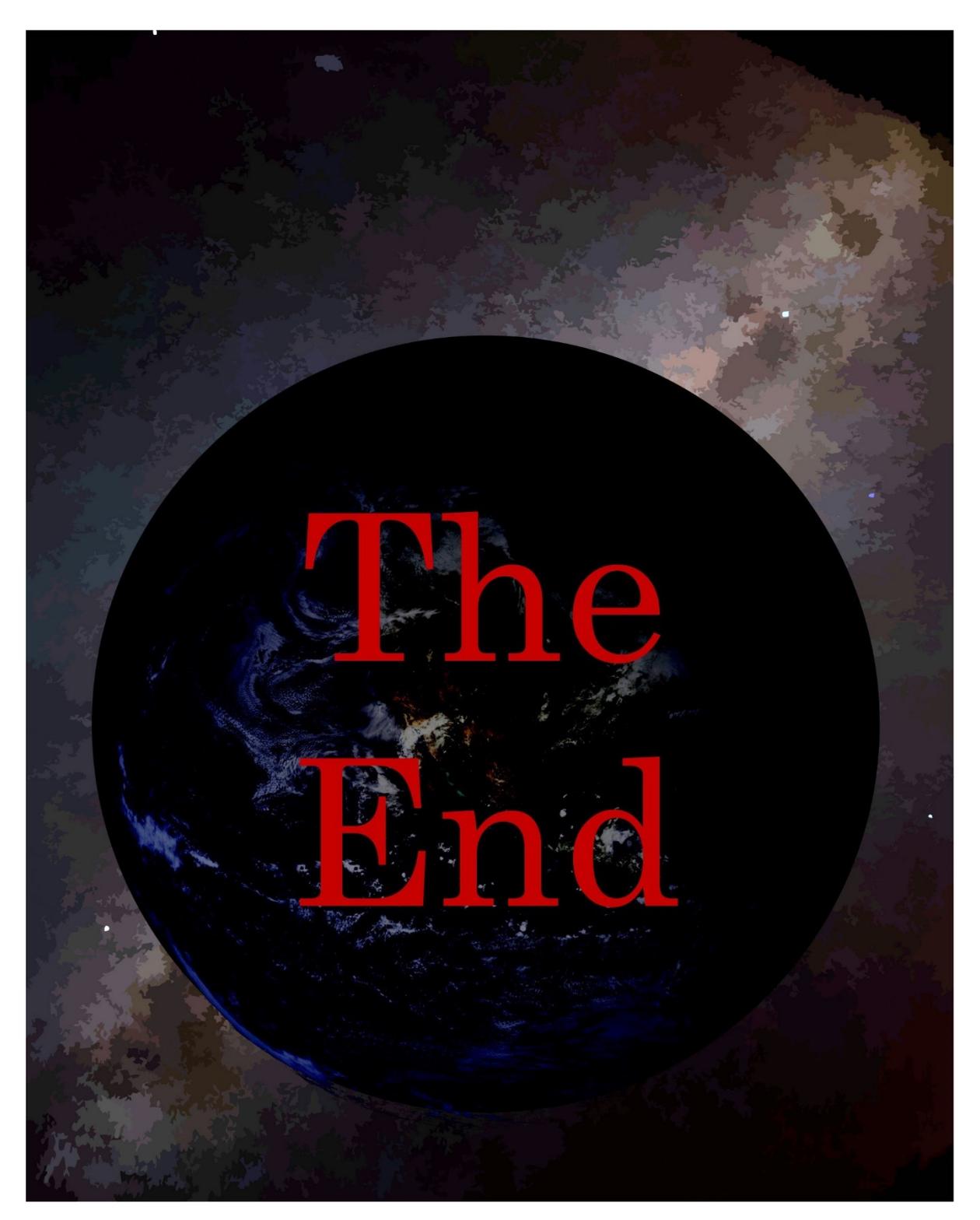
As this tragic story spreads across the universe, there will be deep sadness for the innocent children. For innocent animals and plants. For innocent Earth.

There will be great anger at the adult humans. Most of them chose this future. It is they that destroyed their children's future. It is they that destroyed Earth.

Good they never reached another planet. Good they never destroyed another planet. No species should destroy one planet. Never, never more than one.

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



A circular view of Earth from space, showing the blue oceans, white clouds, and brown landmasses. The Earth is centered in the frame. The background is a dark, textured space with a large, bright, textured celestial body (likely the Moon) in the upper right corner. The text "The End" is overlaid in a large, red, serif font, centered over the Earth.

**The
End**