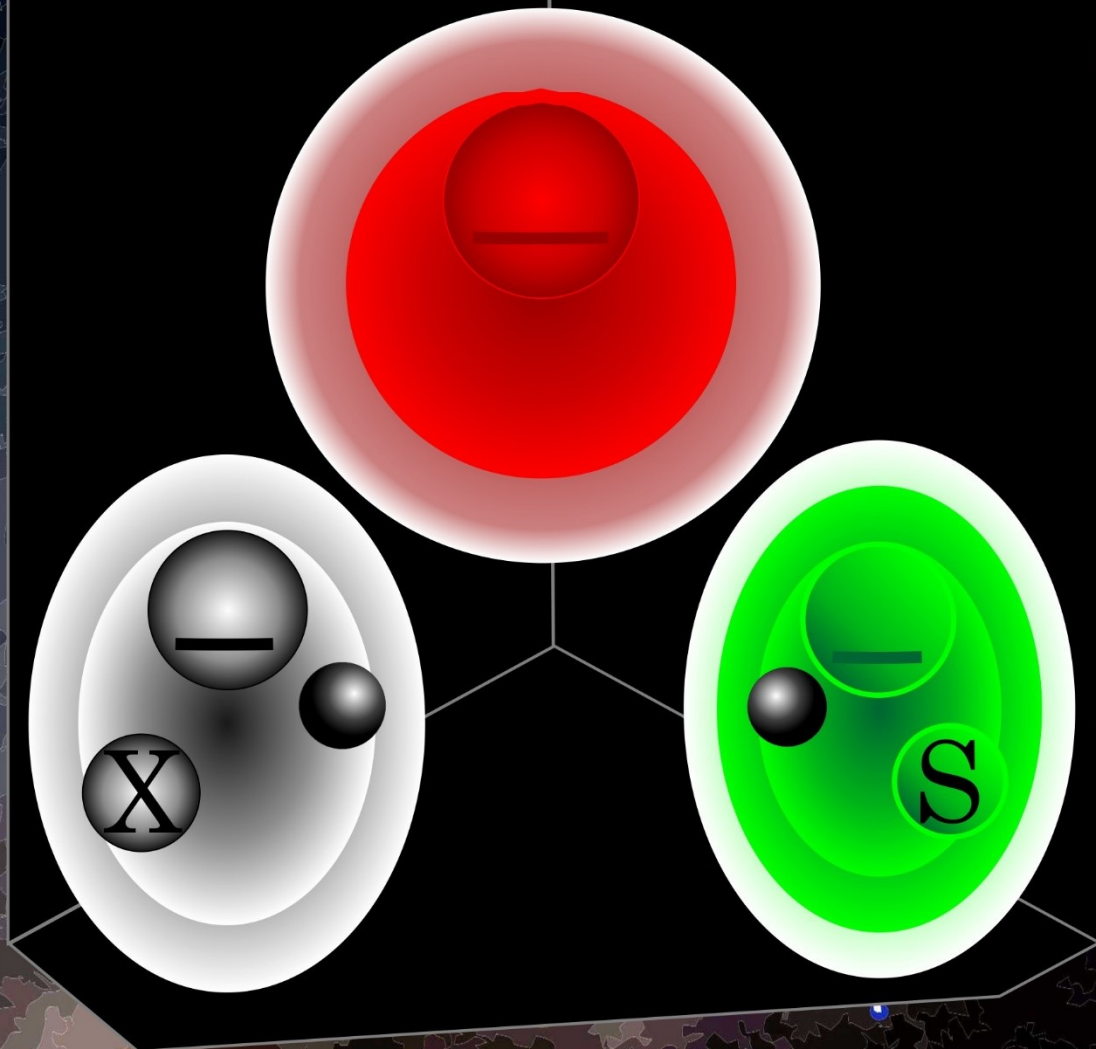


Xtinct

Universal Justice for Earth
Third Book In Thrive! Series



Gary "Chris" Christopherson

Founder, *Thrive!*[®] And *Thrive! Endeavor*[®]

Nelson, WI

University Park, MD

Xtinct – Universal Justice for Earth



Images of space and Earth
were derived from
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Xtinct – Universal Justice for Earth



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Dedication

*People who help avoid extinction
and
help build, achieve and sustain
a surviving and thriving future for all forever.*

About Author

Gary “Chris” Christopherson has a public service career spanning over 40 years. Throughout his career, he worked on national issues on building a thriving and surviving future, on health and human service strategy, policy, systems, models, performance, reform and management and on reducing vulnerability and improving health. Most recently he independently develops strategy, management, policy, models and tools for creating, managing and sustaining large scale change and for building a thriving and surviving future for all people, communities, countries and globally. This work can be seen at ThrivingFuture.org (and his several other websites and blogs) and draws from 30+ years of experience in creating, managing, evaluating and sustaining large, positive and timely change at national and local levels in public and private sectors. He wrote and published public policy books (ThrivingFuture.org) including **Thrive! Endeavor® - All Thrive Forever**; **Thrive!® - All Thrive Forever®: What will you do?® The Game. The Challenge**; **Thrive!® - People’s Guide To A Thriving Future [For All Forever]**; **Thrive!® - Building a Thriving Future**; **The Thrive!® Philosophy - All Thrive Forever**; and **Behavior Effectiveness Model (BEM) - Building Thriving Future Using BEM**.

His national and local public service includes: Associate Director, Presidential Personnel, Executive Office of the President, White House; Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary and Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs, DoD; Senior Advisor to the Chief Operating Officer, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, DHHS; Senior Advisor to Under Secretary for Health, Veterans Health Administration, VA; Senior Fellow, Institute of Medicine, National Academy of Sciences; Chief Information Officer (CIO), Veterans Health Administration, VA; Director of Health Legislation, House Select Committee on Aging, U.S. House of Representatives, and Director of Special Projects, City of Milwaukee Health Department. He served both as political and career appointee. During most of his Federal career spanning 1983 to 2006, he served as member of the Senior Executive Service. He is an elected Senior Fellow of National Academy of Public Administration.

His art and writing career, where he is known as Chris and uses the signature “GChris”, also spans 40+ years. He is a sculptor of abstract art, focusing on mobile and stabile sculptures and creating over 200 sculptures, primarily working in wood and copper. GChris sculpture is mission-driven toward reducing vulnerability and building a thriving future for all forever. GChris sculpture supports our creating and sustaining large, positive and timely change and achieving a thriving future. His sculpture can be seen at GChris.com. His GChris Sculpture Studio/Gallery is in an historic 1880s house and barn on a Mississippi River bluffside in Nelson, WI. Previously, his GChris Sculpture Studio/Gallery was in Georgetown, DC and University Park, MD. He wrote and published science fiction novels **The Thrive! Endeavor** and **black box**, illustrated science fiction books **Extinction! – Failure to Thrive**, **Xtinct – Universal Justice for Earth** and **Thrive! – Escape from Extinction**, and children’s books **Angel, Creator of Artful Things** and **T!rrific [terrific] - What will you do to thrive?**

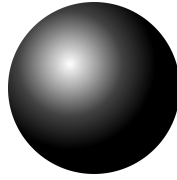
He endowed the Thrive! Scholarship at the University of Wisconsin (Madison) and donated his Mississippi River bluff and prairie land for the new Thrive! Park of the Village of Nelson (WI).

He lives in the Village of Nelson, WI and lived 30 years in University Park, MD in the greater Washington DC area. He went to elementary school in one-room Trout Creek schoolhouse and graduated from Nelson (WI) Grade School, and Alma (WI) High School. He graduated from University of Wisconsin (Madison) with a Bachelor’s in Political Science and a Master’s in Urban and Regional Planning. He also studied toward a doctoral degree at Johns Hopkins School of Public Health (Baltimore, MD)

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Prelude – black box

In the past, Shepherd and black box came to Earth.* The mission was to build a better, thriving future for Earth and all its creatures. Shepherd had friends Taj and Jason committed to and helping achieve the mission. They faced many challenges.

After many struggles, many commitments were made by Earth's most capable species, humans. Some progress was made via a global Thrive! Endeavor.*

But no longer. Now Earth is on path to early extinction. Earth and all its creatures face early extinction.

Humans are the primary cause. Earth's humans are behaving badly. Humans are failing badly.

Even worse, humans are now an emerging threat to other worlds. Humans are reaching further beyond Earth. They desire colonizing another planet like Mars.

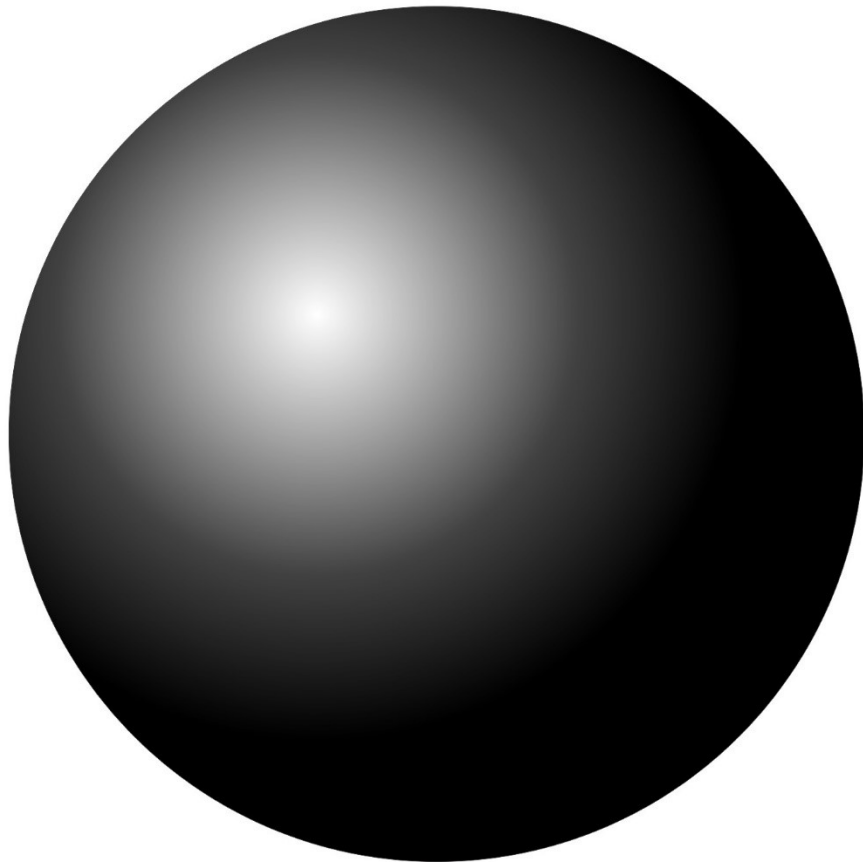
Because of bad human behavior, Earth must now face universal justice.

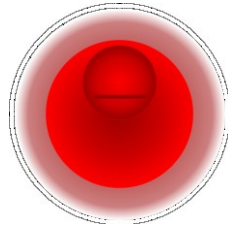
But what will be universal justice for Earth? May be extinction for part or all of Earth. May be extinction only for Earth's offending species, humans.

The end or not the end?

* As told in science fiction novels **black box** and **The Thrive! Endeavor** available @ GChris.com and Amazon.com

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Prologue – The Decider

Far, Far From Earth (150 Years After Day of Choice.).

Far, far away from Earth, Shepherd and Xtinct, black boxes at their sides, appear before the “Decider”.* The Decider is the powerful being who decides whether to apply universal justice to any world. Apply it to a species that threatens its own planet and all its other creatures. To a species that threatens other worlds.

Earth and its human species face judgment. It is bad when a world’s most capable species behaves badly and threatens its own planet, including the planet’s other creatures. Worse when a world’s most capable species threatens other worlds.

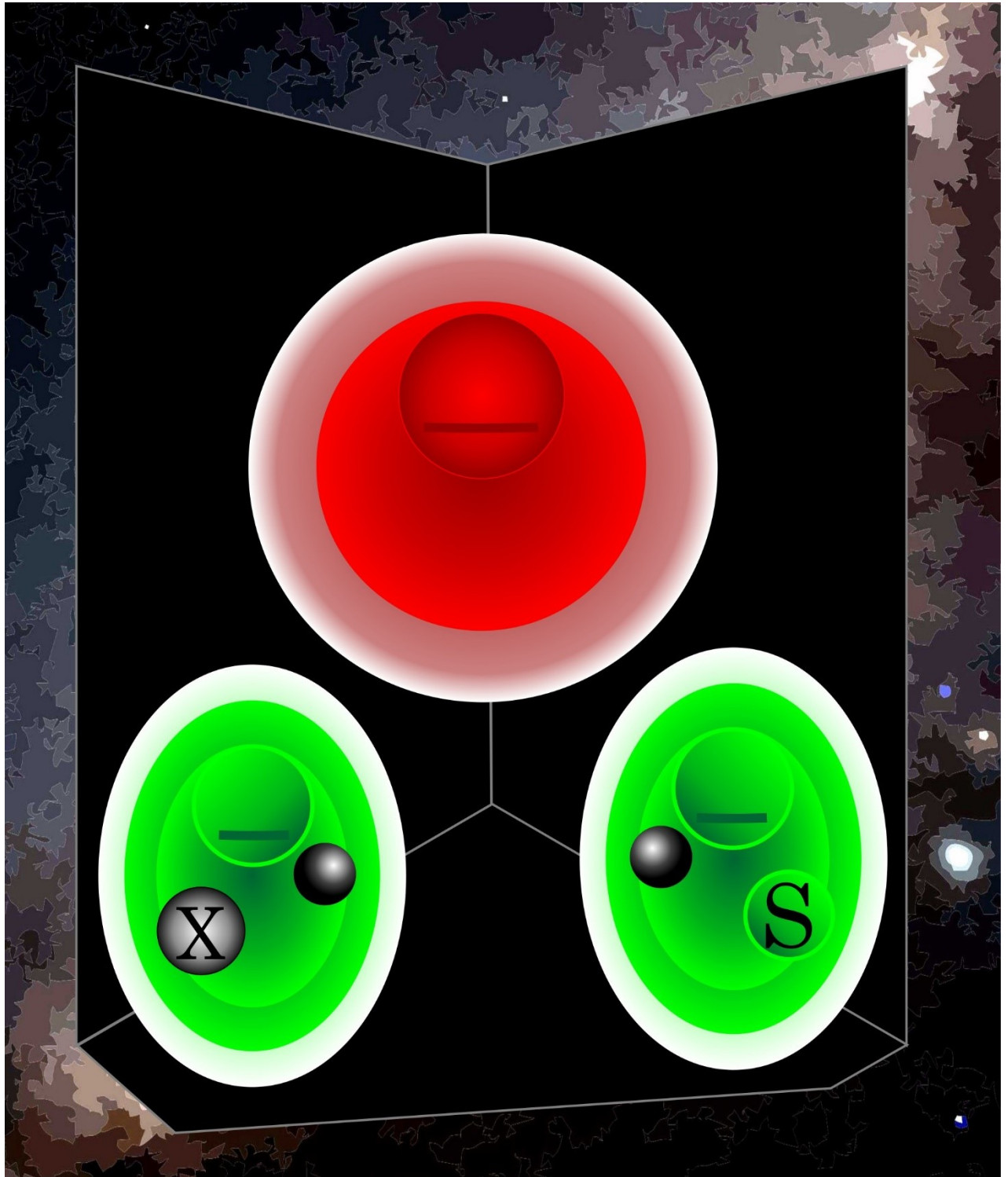
Earth’s humans are its most capable species. Earth’s humans are engaged in both destructive behaviors.

The Decider speaks with great authority and sadness, “Shepherd, you helped Earth’s human species for a long time. For 100 years, they were on the thriving path. But then, sadly, they fell off that path.”

“Selfishness and shortsightedness again took hold. They are now on the path to early extinction.”

“Even worse, they are now a threat to other planets as their space exploration takes them off-planet and potentially to other planets.”

* Natural color for Xtinct and Shepherd is vibrant green surrounded by bright aura.



Turning from green to yellow, a sign of sadness, Shepherd responds, “Decider, you are correct. It makes me terribly sad. The human species has great potential but is a great disappointment.”

“Even with my efforts and my friends’ continuing efforts with their black box, positive change lasted only a century.”

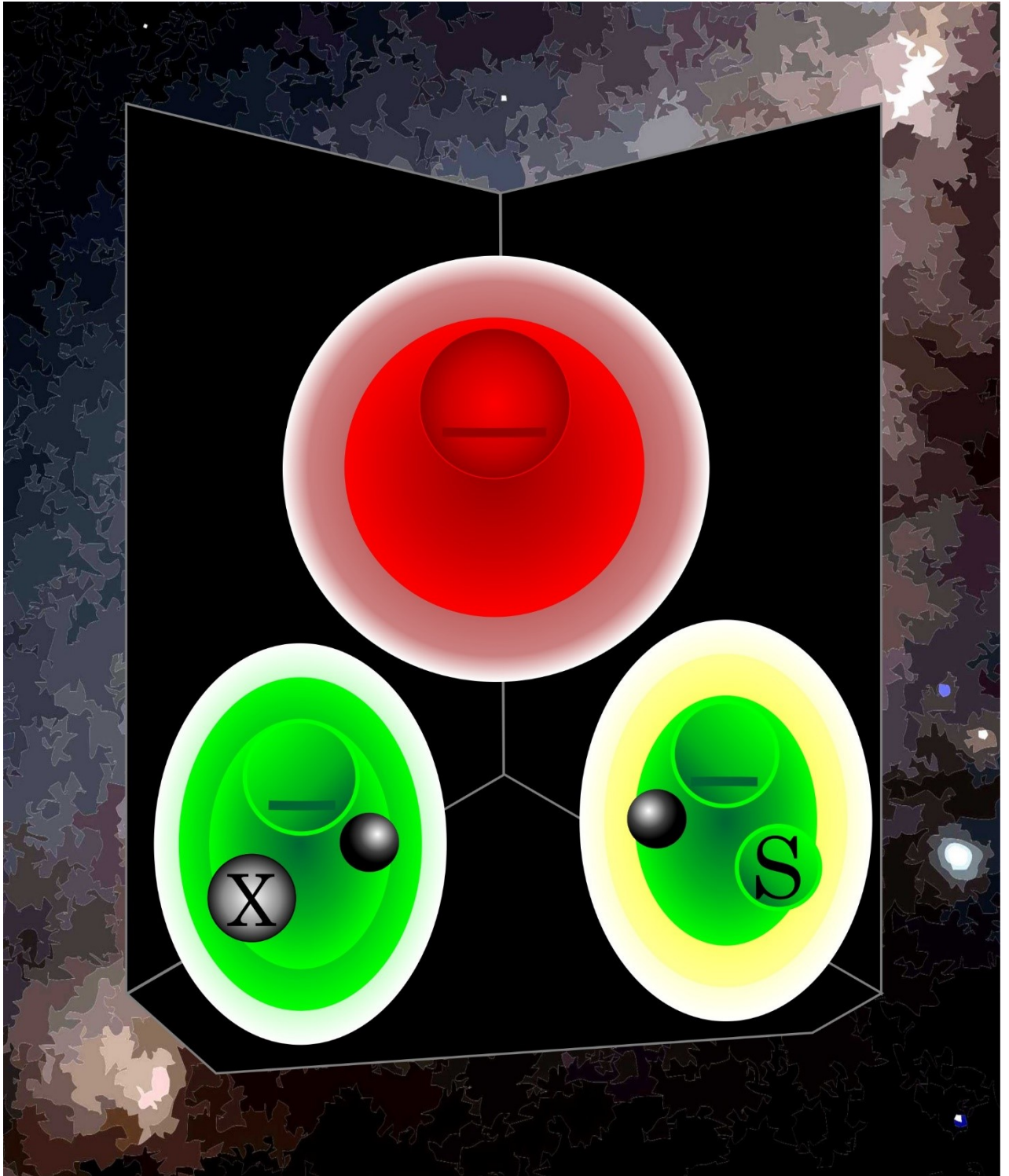
“Extinction, sooner rather than later, is again their fate. Is due to their bad behavior. Is due to their failure.”

The Decider pronounces, “Then, it is with mixed feelings, that I must decide Earth’s fate. My preliminary decision is ‘early extinction’, but only for the human species.”

“For Earth itself and all its non-human creatures, my decision is for them to survive near term and thrive long term.”

“Let me be clear,” warned the Decider. “A mistake was made a very, very long time ago. When humans were allowed to have dominion.”

“No world should have one species with dominion over its planet and all other creatures. No species should threaten dominion over another world.”



The Decider turns to and directs Xtinct, “Your mission is to go to Earth and apply final justice. Universal justice provides the general rule, but particular justice, the final judgment, for Earth will be by you.”

“You will assess the particular situation for Earth and its human species. Then you will apply particular justice to Earth’s particular situation.”

“If, in your judgment, particular justice means human extinction, you have the authority and power to execute human extinction. Decide wisely.”

Xtinct, changing from green to black, the color for judgment, respectfully responds, “I shall do my very best to judge fairly and wisely. I recognize what is at stake for Earth and other planets.”

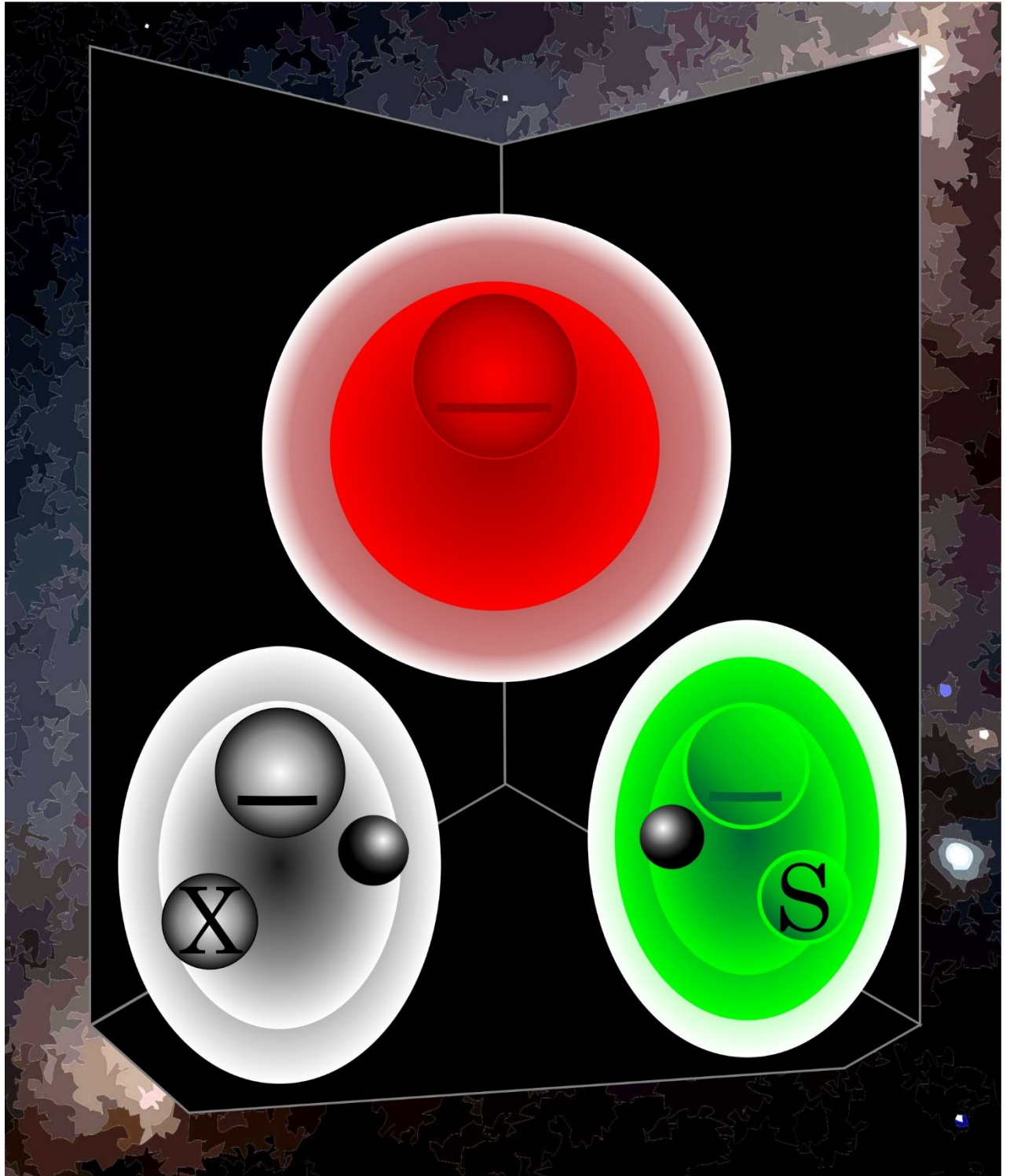
Speaking to both, the Decider makes it clear, “Xtinct, with black box, has the power for extinction of a species or a world, if that is the final judgment.”

“But,” the Decider turns again to Shepherd and offers some hope. “There is still a last chance for the human species. You, your friends and your black boxes may give them that chance.”

“Both of you go now. You both have works to do and decisions to make. Again, decide wisely.”

Xtinct departs for Earth to decide how to apply particular justice and if to apply early extinction.

Shepherd departs for Earth to give the human species their last chance, if humans show they deserve it.





Chapter 1. Arrival

Near Earth (Day 1. 150 Years After Day of Choice.).

Xtinct arrives at Earth very quietly and barely visible.*

Covertly, Xtinct assesses what should be particular justice and the final judgment for Earth. Slowly moving back and forth across Earth, Xtinct observes human behavior and its impact on Earth and all its creatures.

Ominously, Xtinct has black box, a sphere with no markings.** The final judgment will be made by Xtinct. If early extinction, the extinction instrument will be black box.

What Xtinct sees is bad. Very bad. Overpopulation. Poverty. Hunger. Homelessness. Pollution. Crime. Deteriorating climate. Vulnerable humans. Vulnerable non-human creatures. Vulnerable Earth.

Outraged, Xtinct thinks, “Why? Why are humans so selfish and shortsighted? Why so destructive? Why do they waste their potential?”

“They could all thrive forever.”

“They may end with nothing.”

* Both Xtinct and Shepherd have the power to make themselves partially or totally invisible.

** In earlier science fiction novels **black box** and **The Thrive! Endeavor**, black box is rectangular with a screen and keyboard. This black box is a sphere with no screen or keyboard and is much more powerful.

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Chapter 2. Back In Time

Earth (25 Years After Day of Choice.).

Using black box, Shepherd jumps back in time 125 years, arrives on Earth, and connects with friends Taj and Jason.

But they do not recognize Shepherd who is not in human form. Shepherd's true form is more a green oval, surrounded by a bright aura.

“Hello Taj. Hello Jason. It's Shepherd. And yes, I appear a bit different from how you last saw me.”

Jason, in shock, says, “Oh yes. A bit different to say the least.”

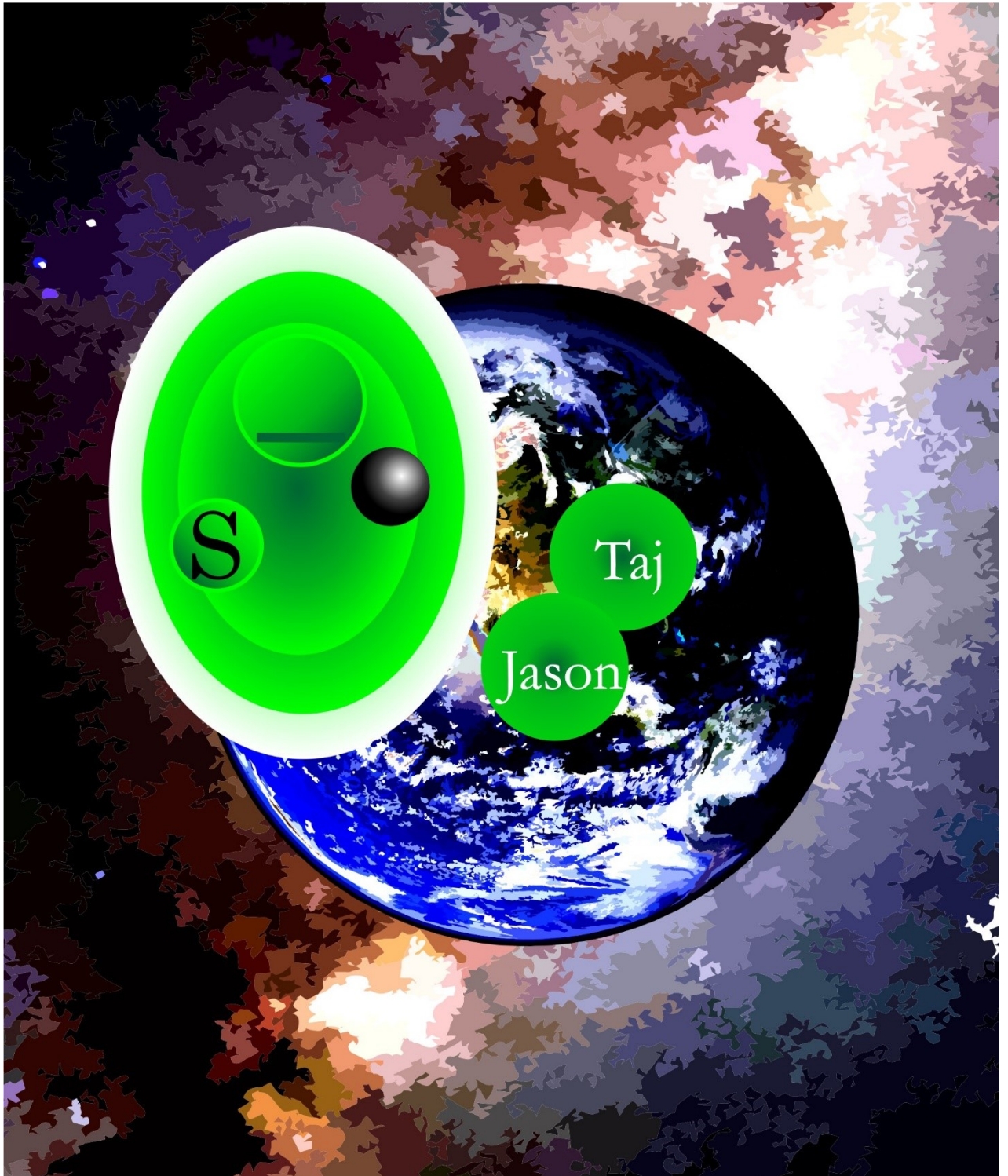
Taj expresses great surprise, “What are you doing here? And why now? You implied we might never see you again.”

“Very, very bad news,” announces Shepherd. “Let me explain.”

“For many reasons, I never told you about a great power in the universe, called the Decider”, explains Shepherd. “The Decider oversees universal justice for the universe and worlds like Earth. I serve with the Decider. My unique mission is to help worlds thrive.”

“One hundred twenty-five years from now, Earth is again in trouble. Earth is being judged. The Decider is applying universal justice to Earth. To Earth's increasingly destructive human species. The preliminary decision is early extinction for Earth's human species.”

“Tragically, the human species is failing itself in the future. Great potential. But, a great failure.”



“What happened?” cries Taj. “Now, 25 years after Day of Choice, we are on the thriving path. You even indicated that 75 years from now, we would still be on the thriving path. What happened?”

Shepherd replies, “Earth was thriving for 100 years. But about 75 years from now, new selfish, shortsighted leaders take hold. Human selfishness and shortsightedness take hold. Human species loses its way.”

“One hundred twenty-five years from now, Earth is no longer thriving. Not even surviving. Earth is on the path to early extinction.”

Jason tries to counter, “Even if we agree the human species will be a failure in the future, won’t you give them more time. More time to resume the path to a better future. A surviving and thriving future.”

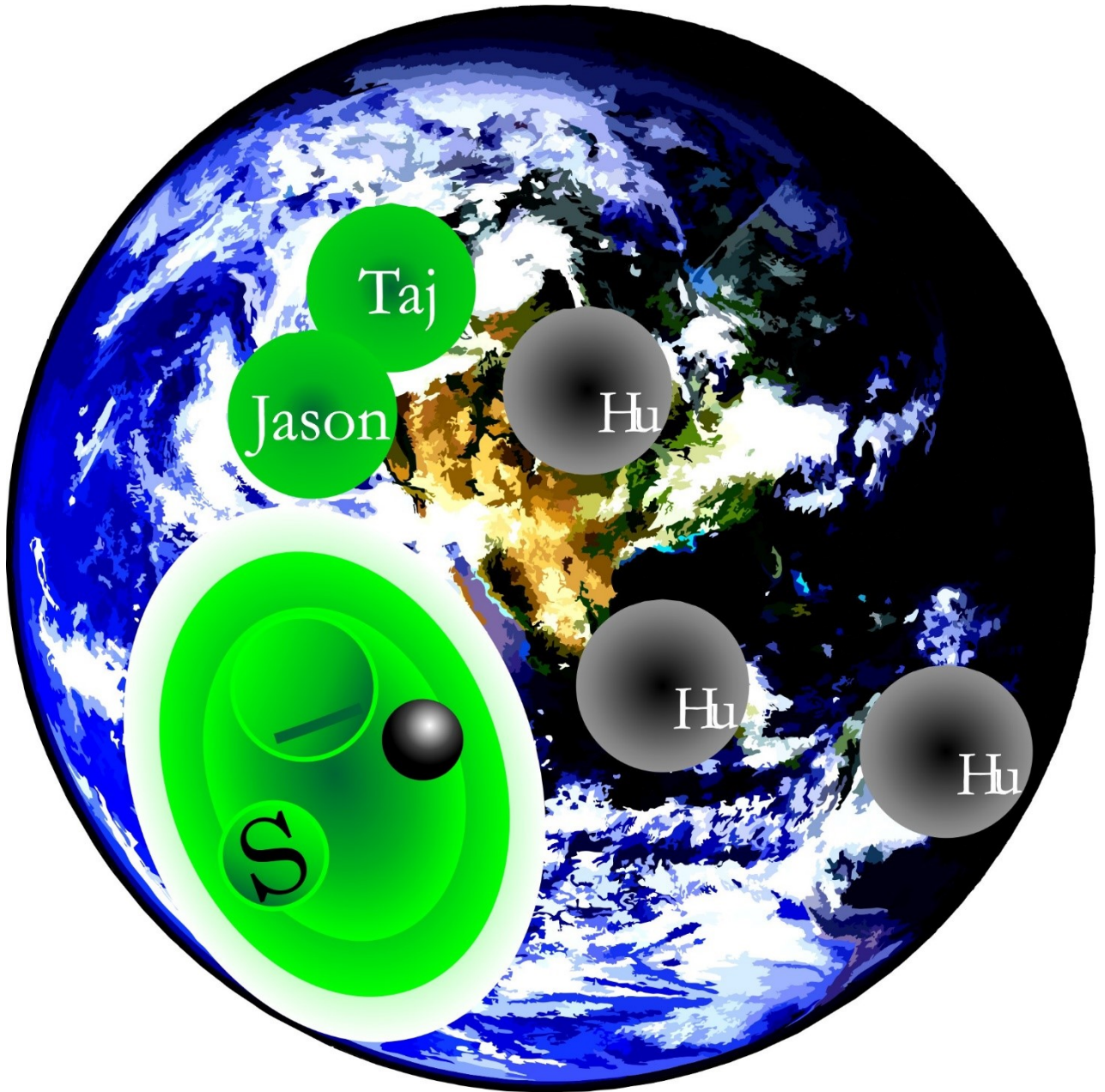
A frustrated Shepherd answers, “I hoped humans would be better. I hoped for more time, but time has run out. One hundred fifty years after Day of Choice, Earth’s human species again have Earth on an early path to extinction. Too much selfish and short-sighted behavior.”

“Is there anything we can do?” pleaded Taj, asking for mercy. Can’t we give them another chance? Can’t we help them?”

“Yes, we can help.” offered Shepherd. “But the window for another chance is very small. The chance for success is very small. Earth and its non-human species are on a far too quick path to early extinction.”

“Come with me to the future now. “I need your help. Future Earth desperately needs your and your black box’s help.”

Shepherd activates black box. They disappear.





Chapter 3. Notice Served

Earth (Day 2, 150 Years After Day of Choice.).

Shepherd, Jason and Taj re-appear on current day Earth, 150 years after Day of Choice.

“Xtinct is already here”, warned Shepherd, sensing Xtinct’s presence. “Covertly. Quietly. But here.”

“Already, Xtinct’s assessment of Earth begins. Already, Earth’s human species are being judged.”

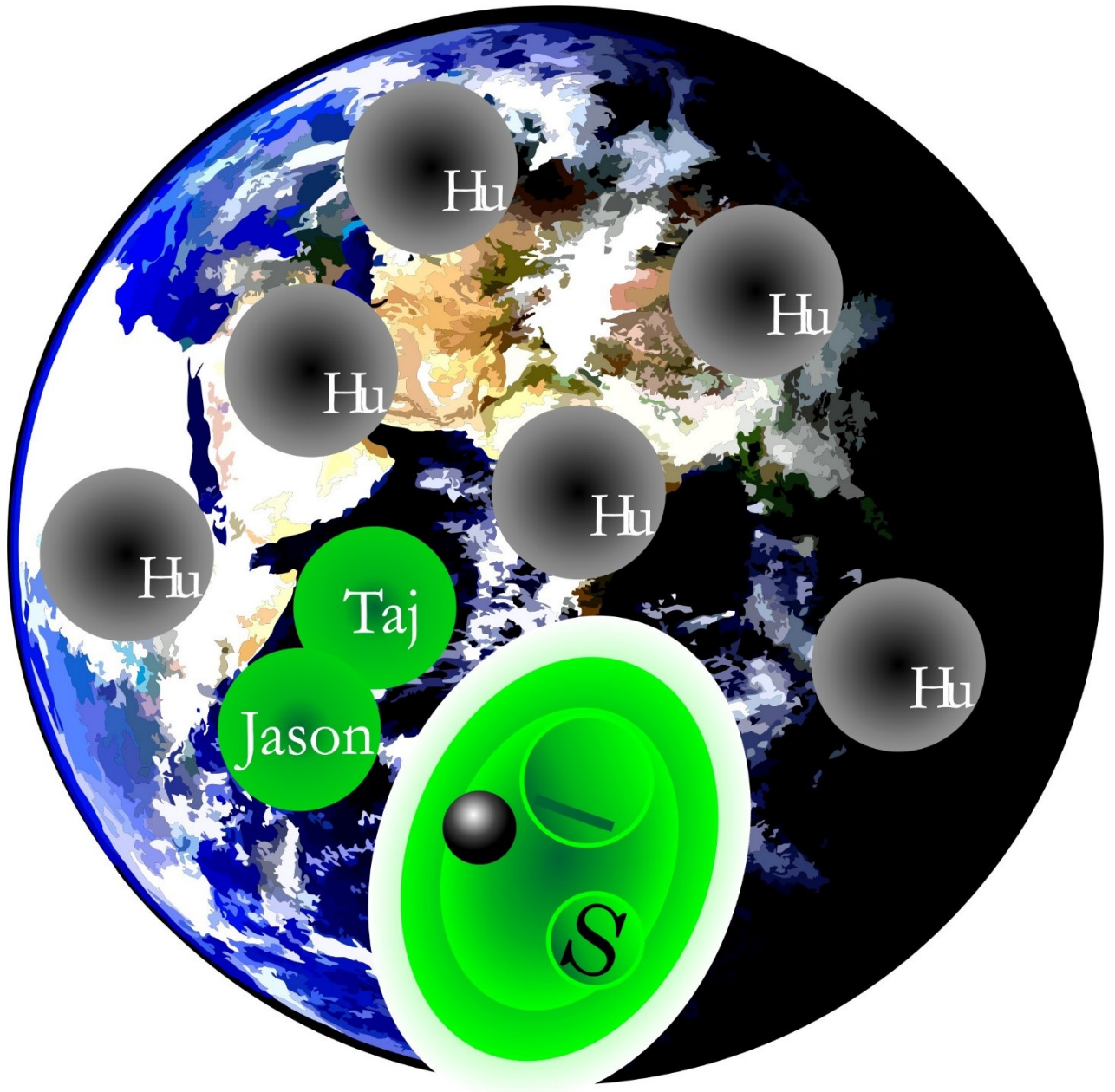
“Though quiet for the moment, that will end shortly. Xtinct is extremely intelligent, caring and thorough. But doesn’t waste time. And doesn’t tolerate selfish, shortsighted fools.”

Jason interjects, “Got it. Humans are in big trouble! We’re here. What do we do?”

Shepherd responds with urgency, “We must immediately connect with Earth’s key people. Some are descendants of colleagues of 150 years ago. Chris and Faith’s descendant Chris is one. She once led the Thrive! Endeavor. Is now United Nation’s Secretary General.”

“She can help us quickly connect with today’ key decisionmakers and influencers?”

So much to do and so little time,” Taj interjects with urgency. “Good we have our old black box to partner with your new one. You really need to tell us about your very different black box.”



Earth (Day 3, 150 Years After Day of Choice.).

Xtinct has decided.

Serving notice, Xtinct goes public. Across all Earth. Using black box, all Earth communications are interrupted.

Using the “voice” of every language and communication method, Xtinct proclaims, “Such a disappointing species you are. You humans no longer deserve Earth and all the non-human creatures on Earth.”

“You are causing your own extinction.”

“And as if destroying Earth, your home planet, is not enough, you have the arrogance to want to expand to other planets. An unacceptable threat to their existence.”

Then the ominous warning, “On behalf of the Decider, overseer of universal justice for the universe, I am here to make final judgment of Earth.”

“Already you humans have been judged to be a threat to Earth and all its non-human creatures. Further, you have been judged to be a threat to other planets.”

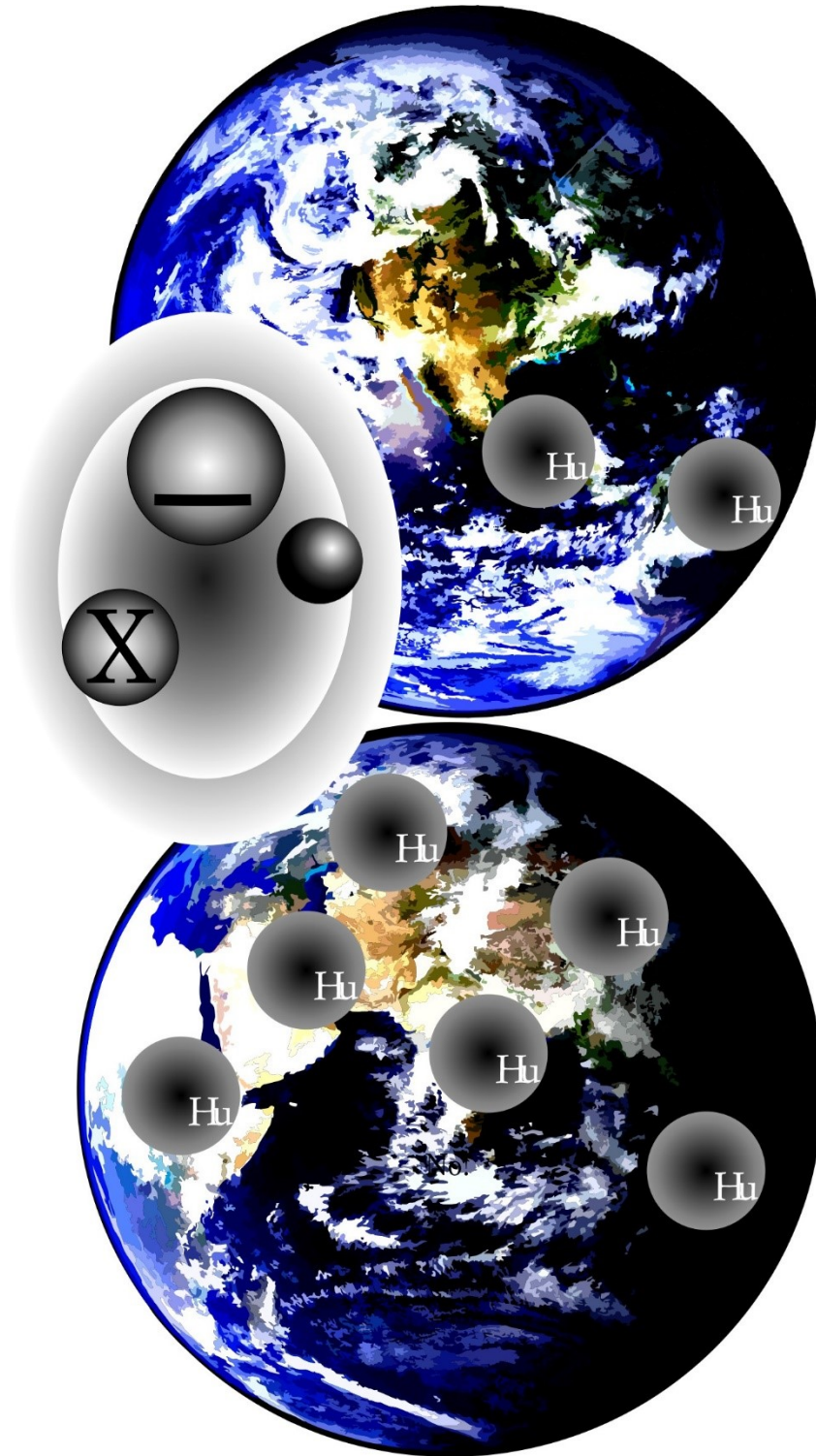
“That must stop immediately if you are to avoid the final judgment – early human extinction. Your choice. This may be your final choice.”

“Only you can prevent extinction.”

“But, for the moment, I do nothing. Do not expedite extinction. Do not help avoid extinction. Only observe.”

Then silence.

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Chapter 4. Negative Response

Earth (Day 3+. 150 Years After Day of Choice.).

For two weeks, humans' leaders across Earth react very negatively to Xtinct's ultimatum. "We will not be dictated to!", "Earth is ours to do with as we wish!" "Humans have dominion over the Earth and all its creatures!"

Counter voices are also heard. "Earth is our home. We must care for it and all its creatures." "We must listen. We must change or lose it all." "We must build and sustain a thriving future for Earth and all its creatures."

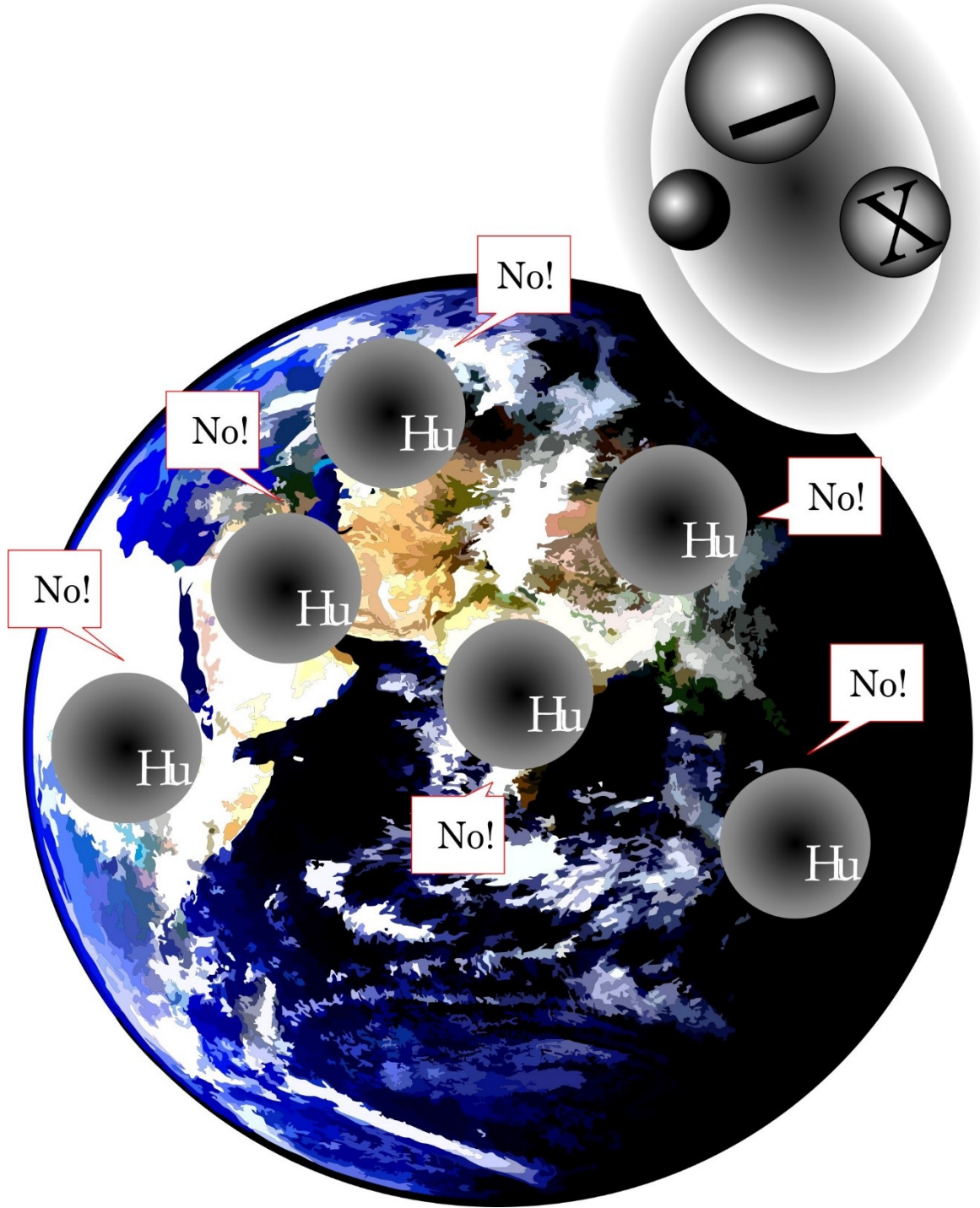
But the voices of reason and caring are not as loud. Not as strong. Not changing the destructive path to the future.

Too many human leaders and too many human followers continue being selfish and shortsighted. Continue doing what they have been doing. Continue the path to extinction for themselves, for Earth and for all other creatures.

Chris sits alone in her United Nations office. She is very sad. For the last decade, she has felt very alone. She feels sad for her ancestors, Chris and Faith.

They were truly enlightened, caring people. Working with Shepherd, Taj and Jason to change the future. To help build a thriving future. A thriving future that began to unravel 25 years ago.

She sees Earth's future grow darker and darker.





Chapter 5. Sadness And Challenge

Above Earth (Day 14. 150 Years After Day of Choice.).

Several days pass. Again, Xtinct looks down at Earth. Great sadness.

“I see the path Earth is on. I see no hope Earth’s humans will change that path. So very destructive. So very sad.”

“Without positive change by humans, early extinction is their future. The same for Earth and all other creatures.”

Once more, Xtinct interrupts all Earth communications.

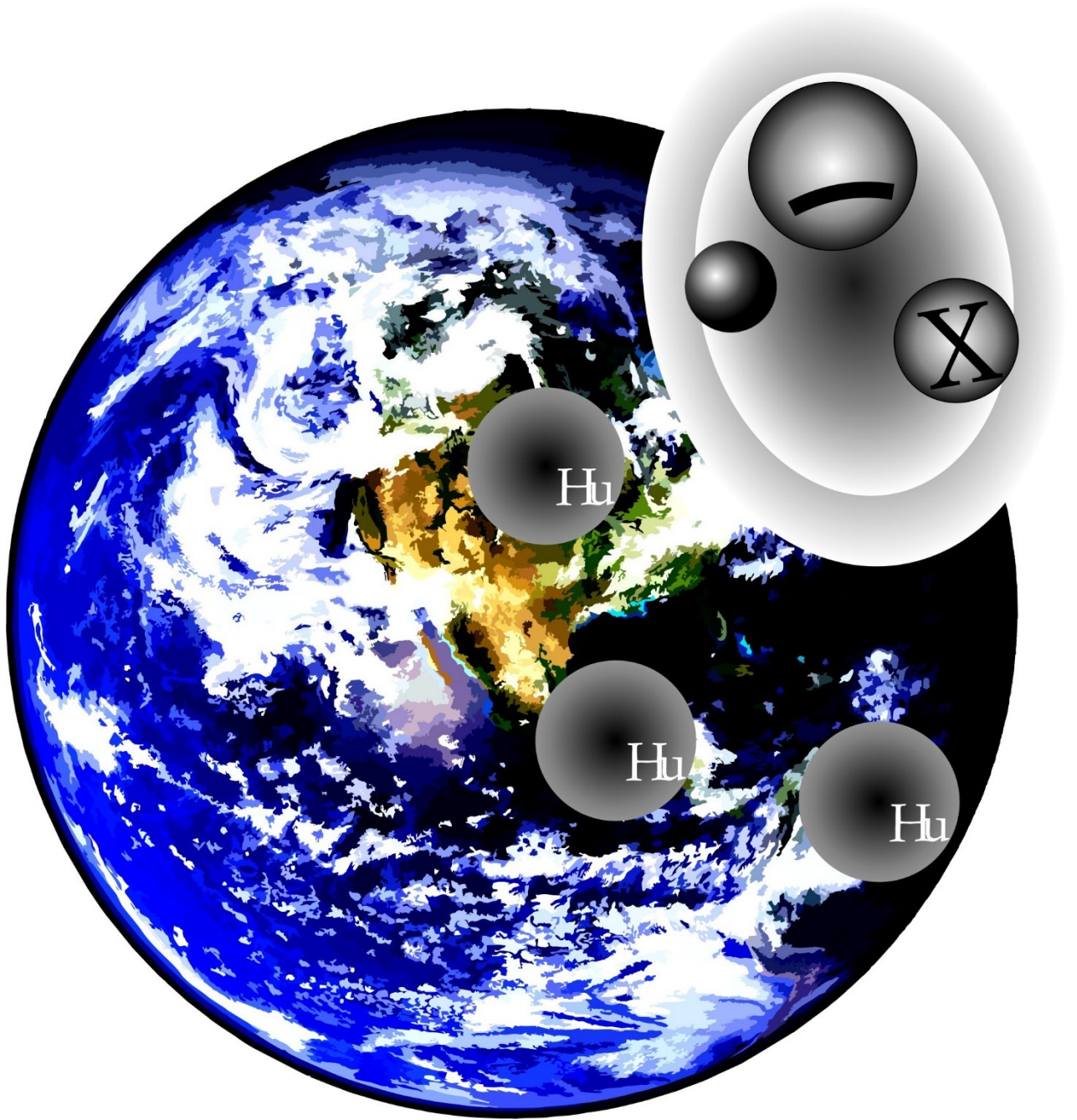
“All Earth’s humans, listen very, very carefully”, Xtinct begins his dire message and challenge. “You have one last chance to change your behavior. To stop destroying Earth. To build a thriving future for Earth and all its creatures.”

“You have 30 days to change. A very tight timetable. But you have had centuries to do the right thing.”

“If you make the necessary positive change, I will not initiate the extinction protocol. If you do not change, I will.”

“Humans would go extinct within months. But, Earth and its non-human creatures will survive and begin to thrive again.”

“Your choice. Choose quickly. Choose wisely.”





Chapter 6. Shepherd

Earth (Day 14. 150 Years After Day of Choice.).

Since coming to Earth in this time, Taj and Jason wait and observe. They share the great sadness expressed by Xtinct and Shepherd.

Jason, tears in his eyes, bemoans, “Why is this happening? Why are humans so selfish and shortsighted? Can’t they see and understand that they are on the path to early extinction?”

“I’m just angry,” shouts Taj, pounding on the table. “Think of all that all of us did for decades to avoid this catastrophe. Over the past two decades, self-centered greed regained its foothold.”

“Are current humans destined to be the last humans on Earth?”

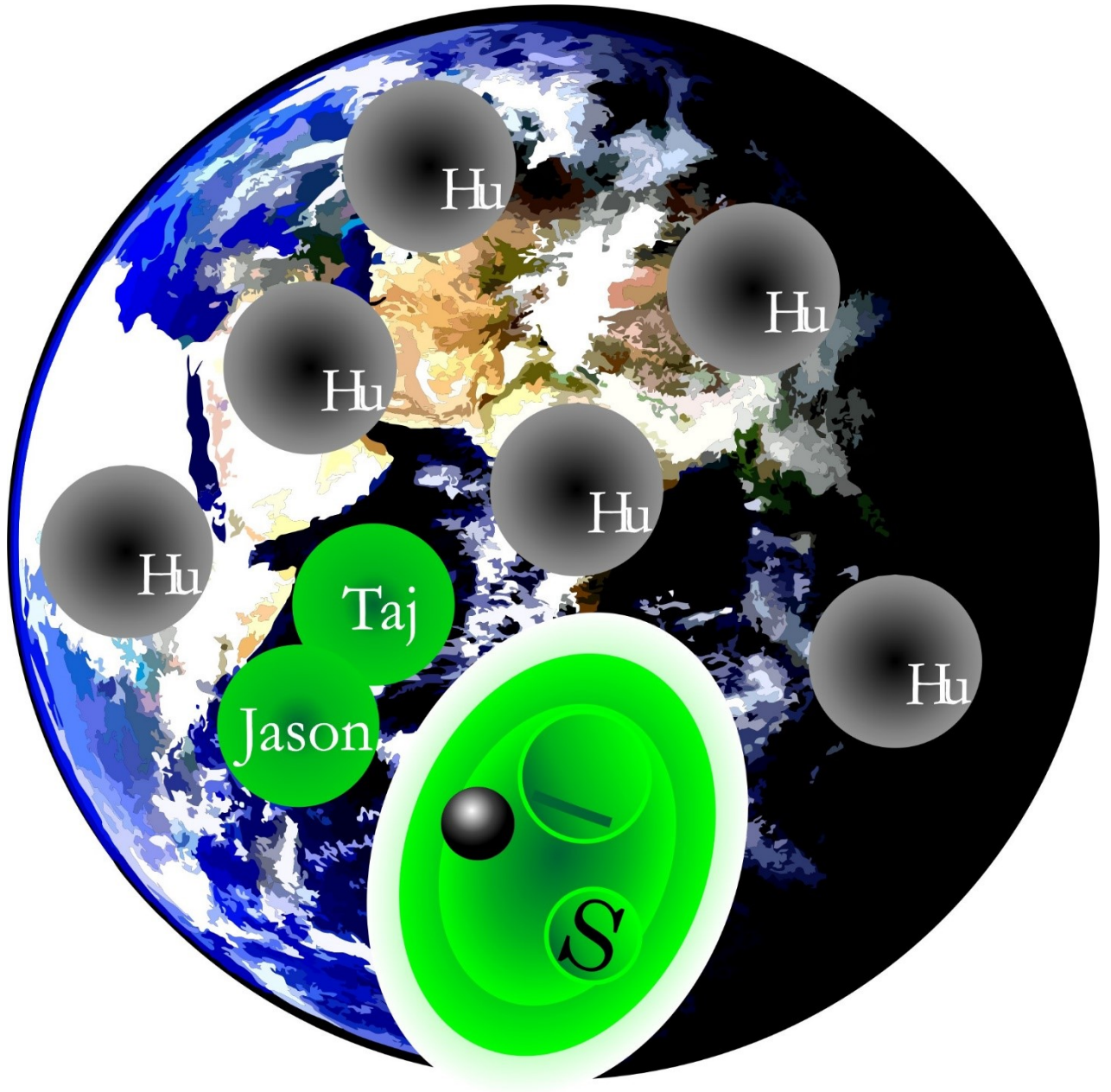
“And where is Shepherd? No contact for over a week!”

As if her question was heard, Shepherd reappears and responds, “I had to give Xtinct time to see if threats would change human behavior. They didn’t.”

“Xtinct has run out of patience.”

“Humans have run out of time.”

“It is now up to us. We must try one more time to get humans to change.”



Interrupting all Earth communications, Shepherd reaches out to humans using all voices and communication channels, “This is not the first time that you humans have pursued a destructive path. Not the first time, you humans had the chance to change your behavior. To change the future from bad to good.”

“This time is different. This is the last time. This is humans last chance to avoid extinction.”

“Like we did 150 years ago, my friends and I will help you avoid extinction. But only if you all commit to changing your behavior immediately.”

“Your choice. Choose wisely. We await your decision.”

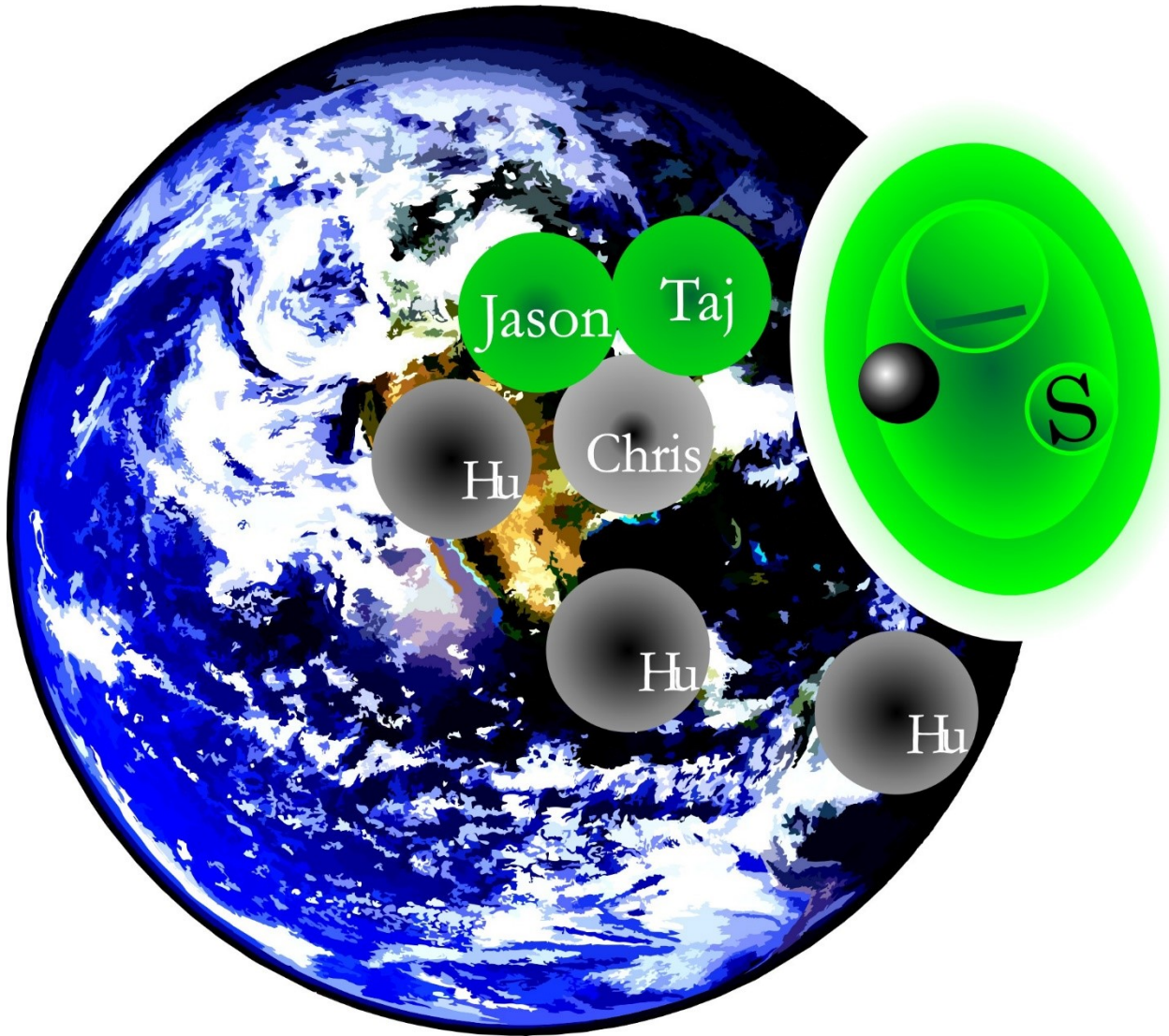
Shepherd closes communication and turns back to Taj and Jason.

Taj and Jason note that Shepherd has the new black box. It is the same unmarked sphere as Xtinct’s. Taj and Jason have their original rectangular black box.

“Time to partner with Chris,” advises Shepherd. “I think she may be their only hope. The only person who might lead humans away from extinction and toward a thriving future.”

“We agree,” declares Taj, nodding her head. “I already approached her informally. I didn’t tell her who I was or from what time I came.”

“I think she is ready. I know she is worried and frustrated. I know she desperately wants and needs our help.”





Chapter 7. Refusal

Earth (Day 45. 150 Years After Day of Choice.).

A month has passed. Tragically, human leaders refuse to change their behavior.

Some don't believe Xtinct can or will cause early human extinction.

Some refuse to yield to what they see as an unreasonable, unethical, or illegal judgment by Xtinct.

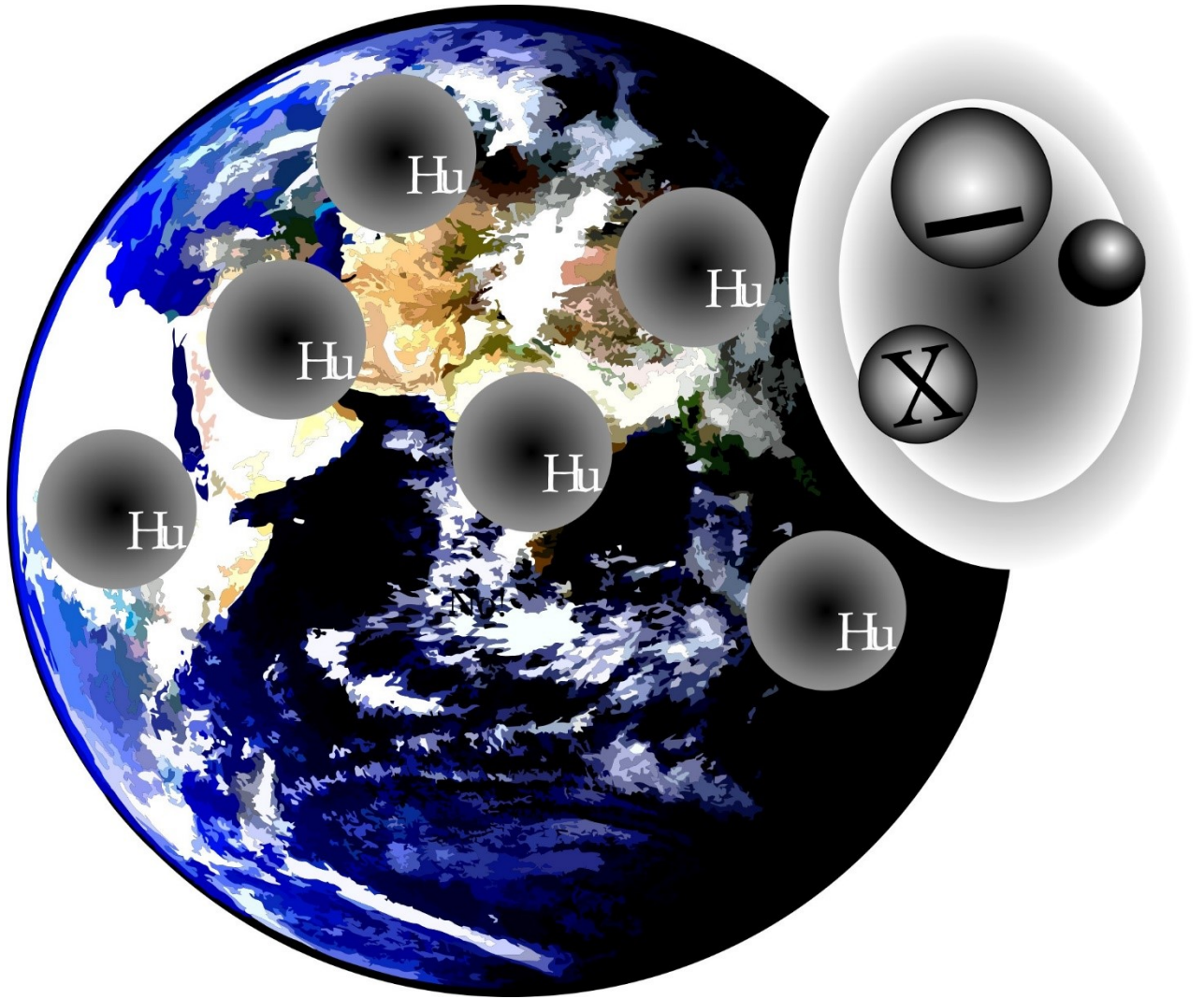
Some don't care, except about themselves and their immediate future.

Some humans believe and care but don't have the power to change enough human behavior to avoid the judgment. To avoid early human extinction.

Totally frustrated, Xtinct pronounces judgment, "Humans, you have failed miserably. Now I make the judgment."

"Universal and particular justice will be applied to Earth. It is human extinction. The human extinction protocol begins now."

"Say good-bye to your family and friends. The end is coming. The end is near."



Earth (Day 45. 150 Years After Day of Choice.).

For the past month, Shepherd, Taj and Jason worked closely with Chris. They needed to fully understand humans in this time and under these circumstances. Chris has been most helpful.

“Chris,” acknowledges Shepherd. “Thanks. We have a much better understanding as to what we face. In many ways, this time will be even more difficult than 150 years ago.”

“Shepherd, I fully agree,” affirms Chris. “When I read my ancestors’ papers, some sense of community still existed then. A strong sense of community was used to move people then. People changed from a focus on their differences to a focus on what they had in common. What they really wanted for their and Earth’s future.”

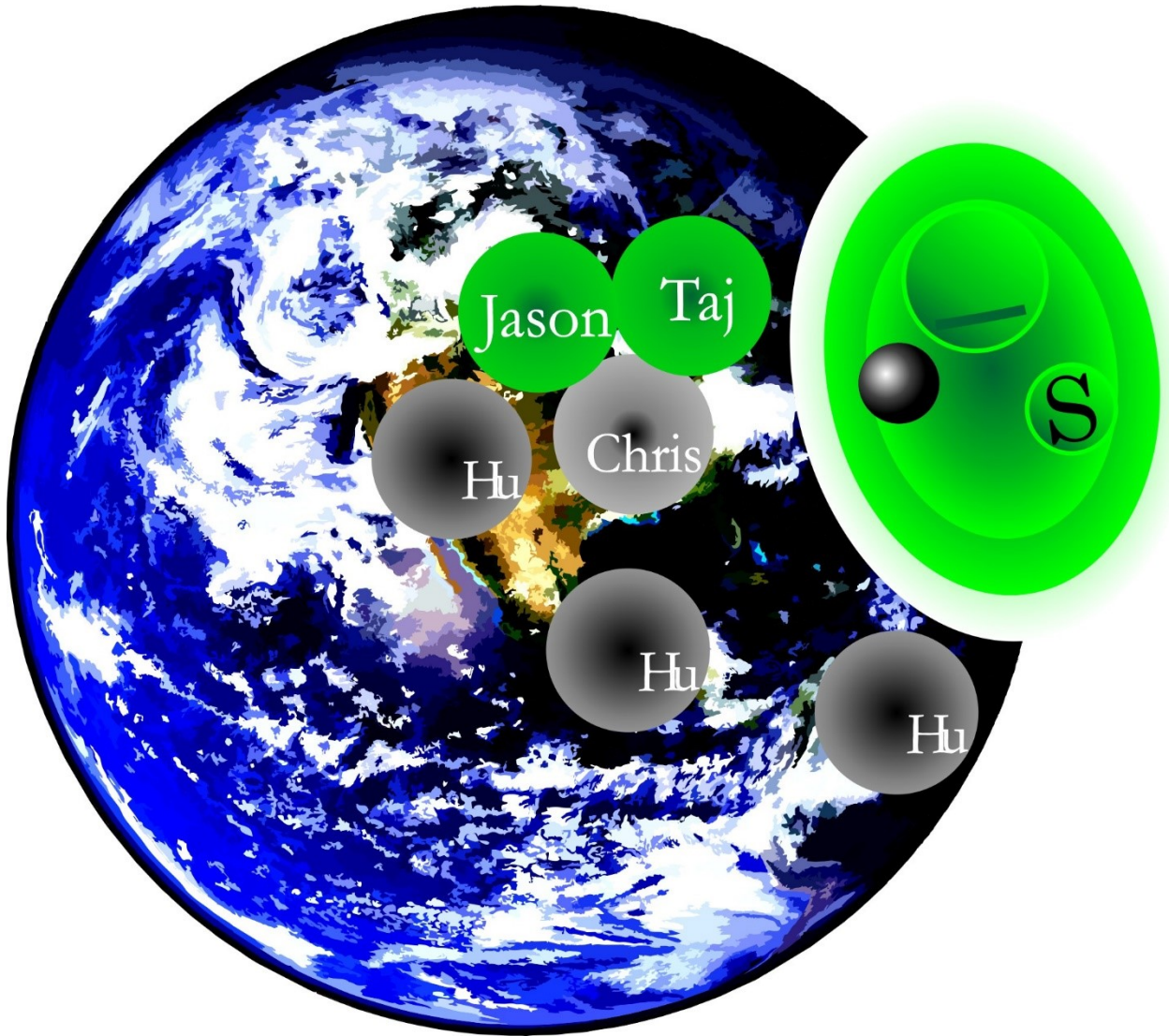
“Let’s go over the strategy. With Xtinct’s announcement today, we know the end is coming quickly. Unless we can change the course.”

Starting today, Chris, Shepherd, Taj and Jason will communicate directly with everyone who wants to save the human and non-human species and Earth. Who will do what it takes to make that happen. No violence. But concerted action. Using black boxes, they will connect with all social media tools and channels.

They will create a global network, another and even more powerful, sustainable Thrive! Endeavor. Together, that global network and all the people in it will gain control over all the power centers. Governments. Businesses. Social organizations.

They will take advantage of the fact that selfish, shortsighted humans are fighting among themselves. Not able to stop this takeover.

If successful, humans who care about each other, about non-human creatures, and about Earth will control the future. Will build a surviving and thriving future for Earth and all its creatures, including humans. If.





Chapter 8. Black Box

Earth (Day 45. 150 Years After Day of Choice.).

First, Xtinct uses black box to stop humans from colonizing other planets. Destroys their space exploration technology and vessels.

Then Xtinct uses black box to begin the human extinction protocol. To end human life on Earth. Slowly at first.

Xtinct uses black box so that all actions are visible on all communication channels. But those who remember the Shepherd's black box are surprised. Not the same. What was once a simple rectangular black box with hidden screen and keyboard is now a black sphere. No screen. No keyboard. No less mysterious. No less powerful.

In fact, this black box is much more powerful than its predecessor. It can extinguish a whole planet and all its inhabitants. Or it can selectively extinguish a single species. The human species.

Humans begin to disappear. One by one. Not only is it only humans who disappear, but it is only selected humans.

But to where do they disappear? Unknown. Except to Xtinct and Shepherd.

As Xtinct continues the extinction protocol, it is clear the first humans to disappear are the most selfish and shortsighted. It is as if Xtinct is trying to give humans one more chance. As if removing the most selfish and shortsighted humans might give the less selfish and shortsighted humans a chance to change the future for the better.





Chapter 9. Disbelief And Belief

Earth (Day 45+. 150 Years After Day of Choice.).

Still, many, many humans and their leaders react negatively. Even with humans disappearing, they express disbelief.

Most human leaders and many other people still don't believe Xtinct has the power or the will to bring about full and early extinction of the human species.

The selfish, shortsighted, disbelieving human leaders refuse to change. Refuse to relinquish power.

For a time, they focus on finding Xtinct. Hoping to stop Xtinct by force. But they can't find Xtinct. Even if they could, they would not succeed. They still fail to believe Xtinct has that much will and that much power.

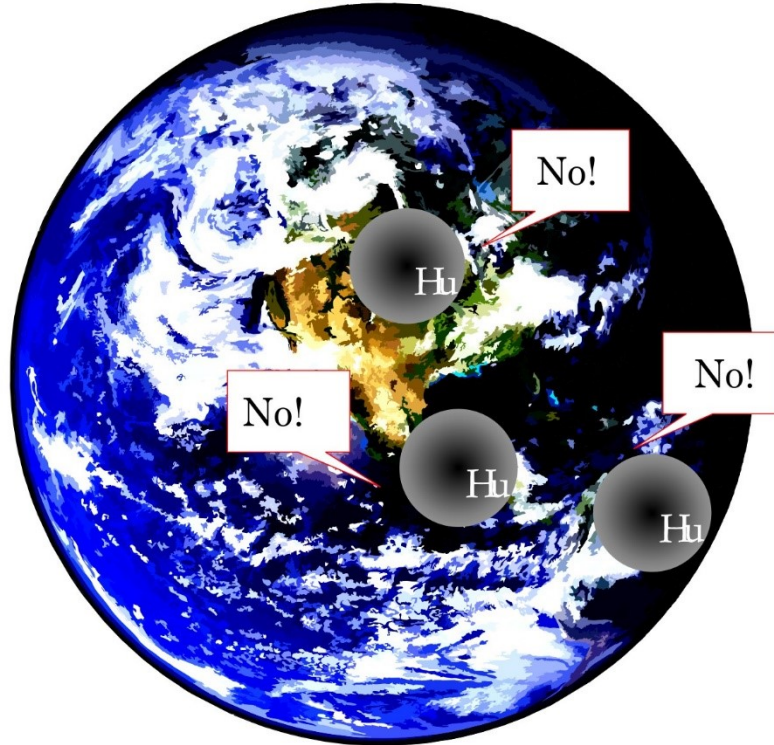
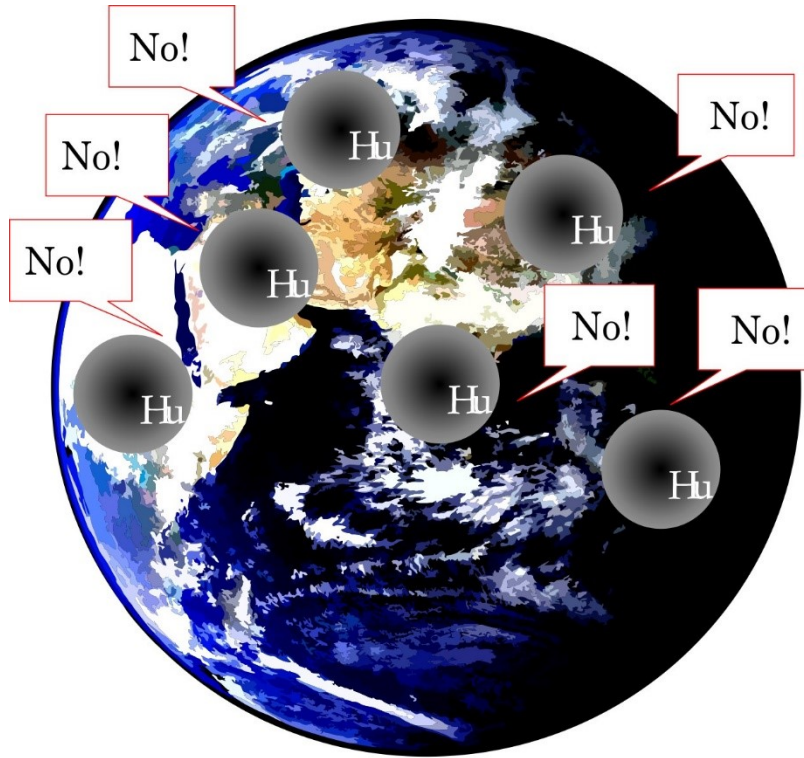
But there still might be some reason to hope. To avoid human extinction.

Disbelieving, selfish human leaders are losing ground. There are fewer and fewer of them every day.

There are some signs that the less selfish and the less shortsighted humans are an emerging force. Those who believe. Those who care for Earth and all its creatures.

But is it too late?

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Earth (Day 45+. 150 Years After Day of Choice.).

As quickly as they can, Chris, along with partners Shepherd, Taj and Jason, builds the new Thrive! Endeavor.

Social media is full of the Thrive! Endeavor. Influencers are moving in large numbers to support the endeavor. New influencers are emerging, almost all support the endeavor. The endeavor is viral like no other cause has ever gone viral.

Initially, social media was balanced between the disbelievers and the believers. But that has shifted drastically. Believers are now in control of social media content, views and interactions.

Across Earth, Chris and her partners connect with millions and millions of people. Maybe billions. More and more connect every minute. Their partners across Earth are now quickly moving to assume power in governments, businesses and social organizations.

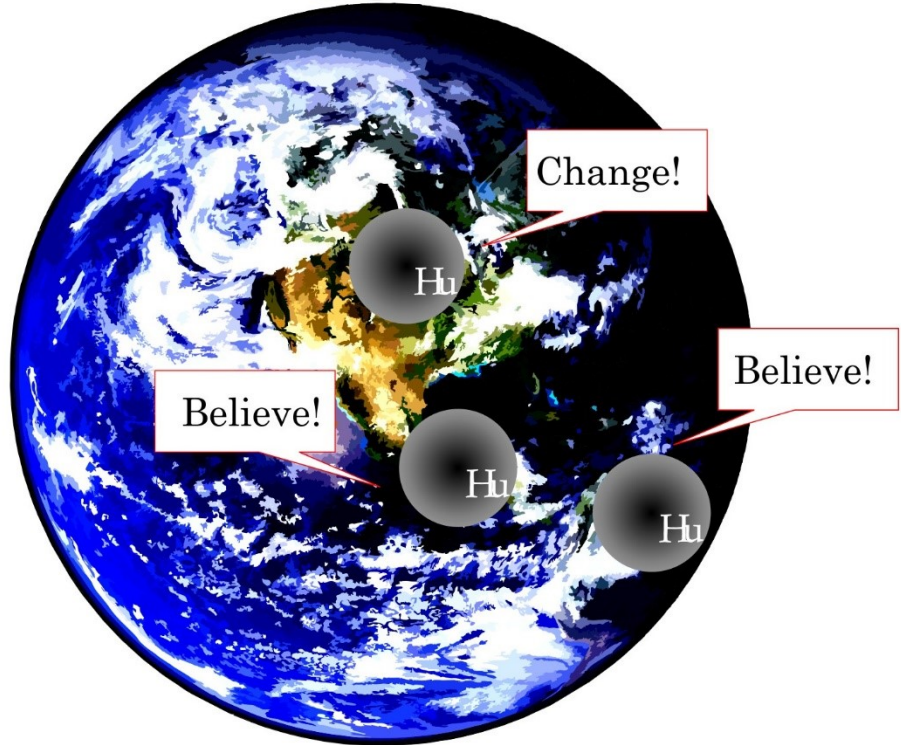
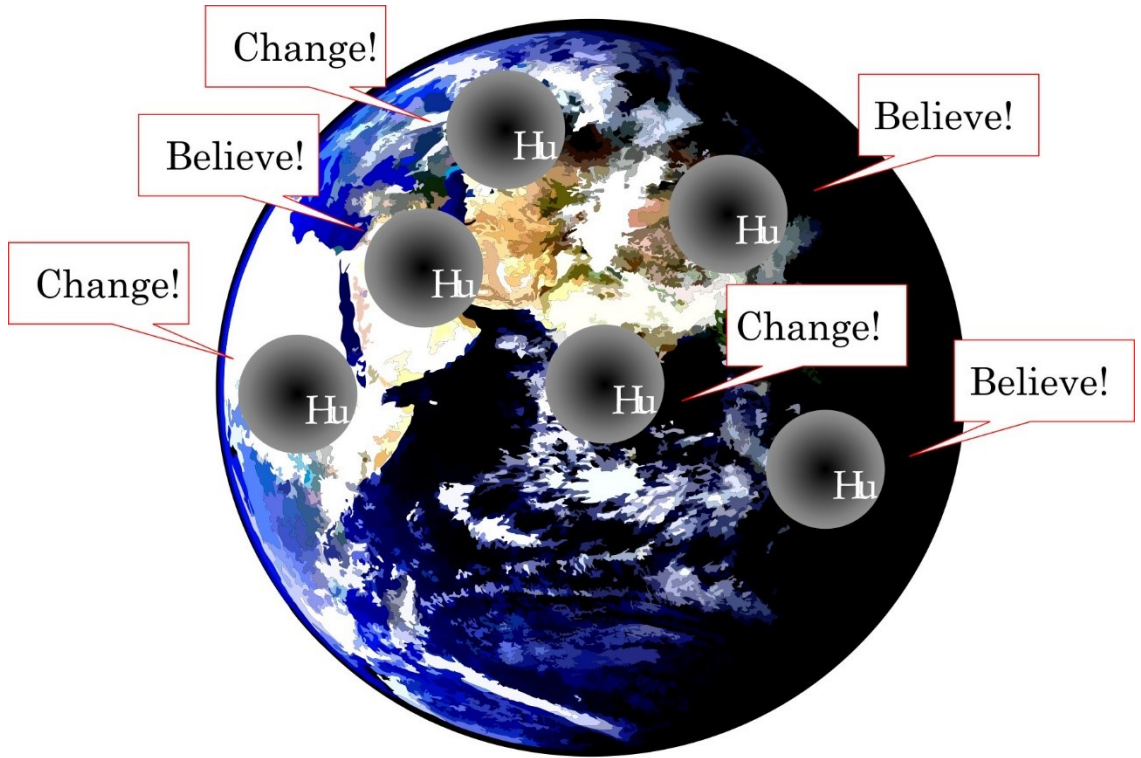
Their increasing success is helped greatly by Xtinct disappearing many of the most selfish and shortsighted leaders in all these organizations. As leaders disappear, Thrive! Endeavor partners quickly take their place and assume leadership.

Already, the key leadership in the United States, China and Russia has changed for the better. Most countries' leaderships are changing for the better. There are very few holdouts.

Still worried, Chris turns to her partners, "So much in so little time. Still, is it enough? Is it too late?"

Shepherd responds with concern, "I don't know. I honestly don't know."

Xtinct – Universal Justice for Earth





Chapter 10. Extinction Protocol

Earth (Day 60. 150 Years After Day of Choice.).

Through the new Thrive! Endeavor, the less selfish and less shortsighted gain ground and try to save the human species. To save Earth and all its non-human creatures.

Unfortunately, humans have already done so much damage. And many humans are still not on board with the change.

Not enough progress. Not enough to change the future enough.

Xtinct makes one last observation and expresses great sadness, “There is some hope by some humans. Shepherd and partners have made progress. Just not enough to truly change the future.”

“Humans are still on the path to destroy their home planet and all that depend on it. I so much wish it were otherwise.”

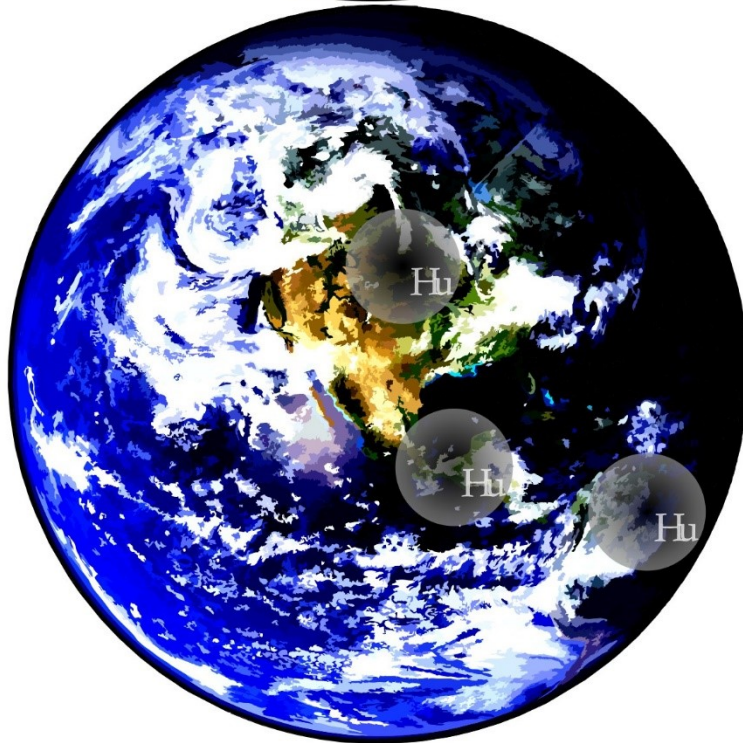
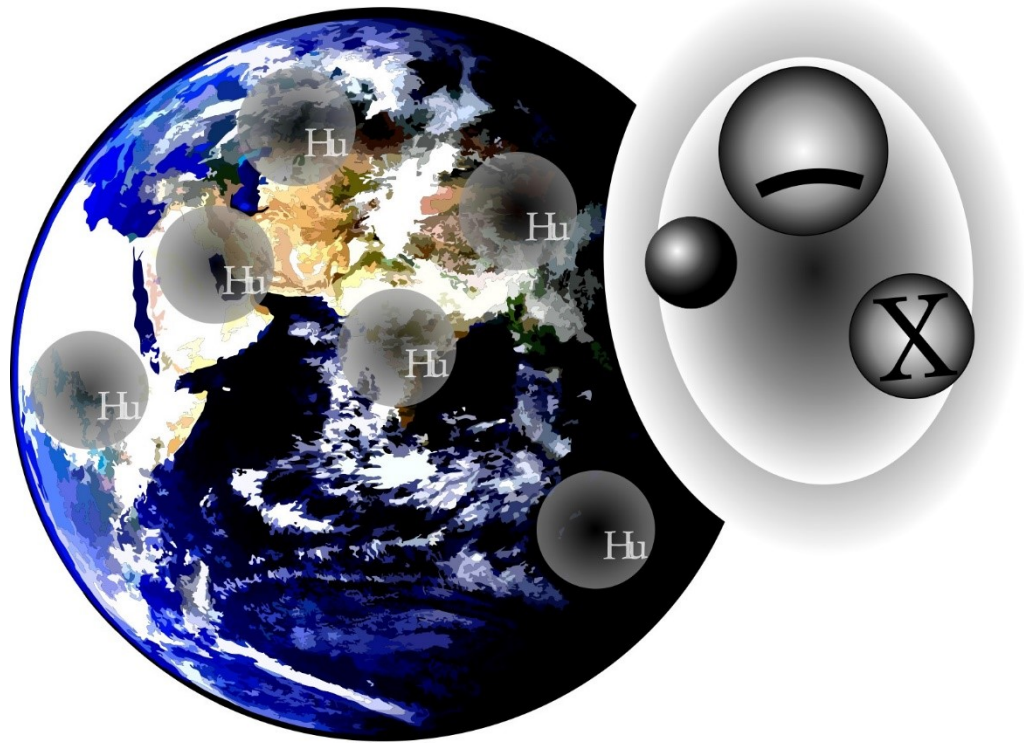
Still not believing humans will change enough to change the future, Xtinct makes final judgment. Expands the extinction protocol to all but a few humans. Speeds up the rate of human extinction.

People disappear at a much faster pace. Human presence on Earth fades further.

Humans have very little time before early extinction is complete.

Until all humans are gone.

Xtinct – Universal Justice for Earth





Chapter 11. Fear And Desperation

Earth (Day 65. 150 Years After Day of Choice.).

More and more humans are disappearing. The pace of disappearing has quickened. Human presence is fading.

In what may be the final days of humans on Earth, almost all humans now believe human extinction has accelerated. That human extinction will occur. Great disbelief and anger turn to great fear.

First it is blame. Who else but themselves can they blame for what is happening?

Then it is desperation. Is there no hope?

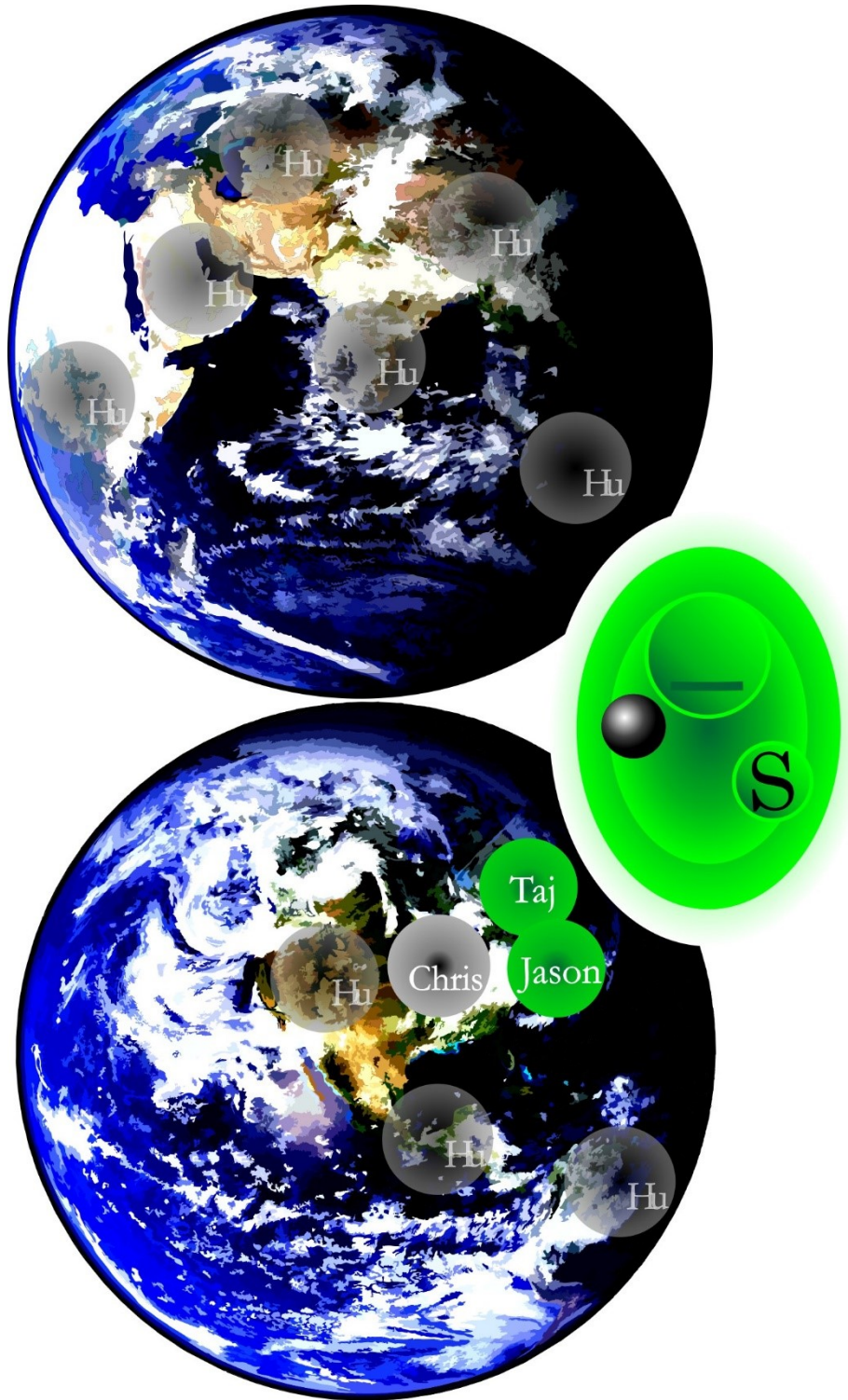
Then it is looking for help. Who can they turn to for rescue?

Then it is acceptance. They realize and accept it is up to them. Partnering with the Thrive! Endeavor is their only hope.

Fear drives nearly the whole of humanity to focus on the offer made by Chris, Shepherd, Taj and Jason. Fear drives them to reach out to Chris and Shepherd for what may be the final chance for the human species on Earth.

But time is very, very short. If any time remains.

Xtinct – Universal Justice for Earth



Earth (Day 65. 150 Years After Day of Choice.).

Humans desperately plea for help.

The remaining humans on both sides make a global plea to Chris and Shepherd.

Disbelievers and believers all now believe, “We were fools to think that Xtinct wouldn’t or couldn’t bring about extinction of the human species.”

“While we would like to blame it all on the leaders that are no longer with us, we can’t. We are all at fault. We share the blame.”

Chris and Shepherd appear along with Taj and Jason. Along with two black boxes.

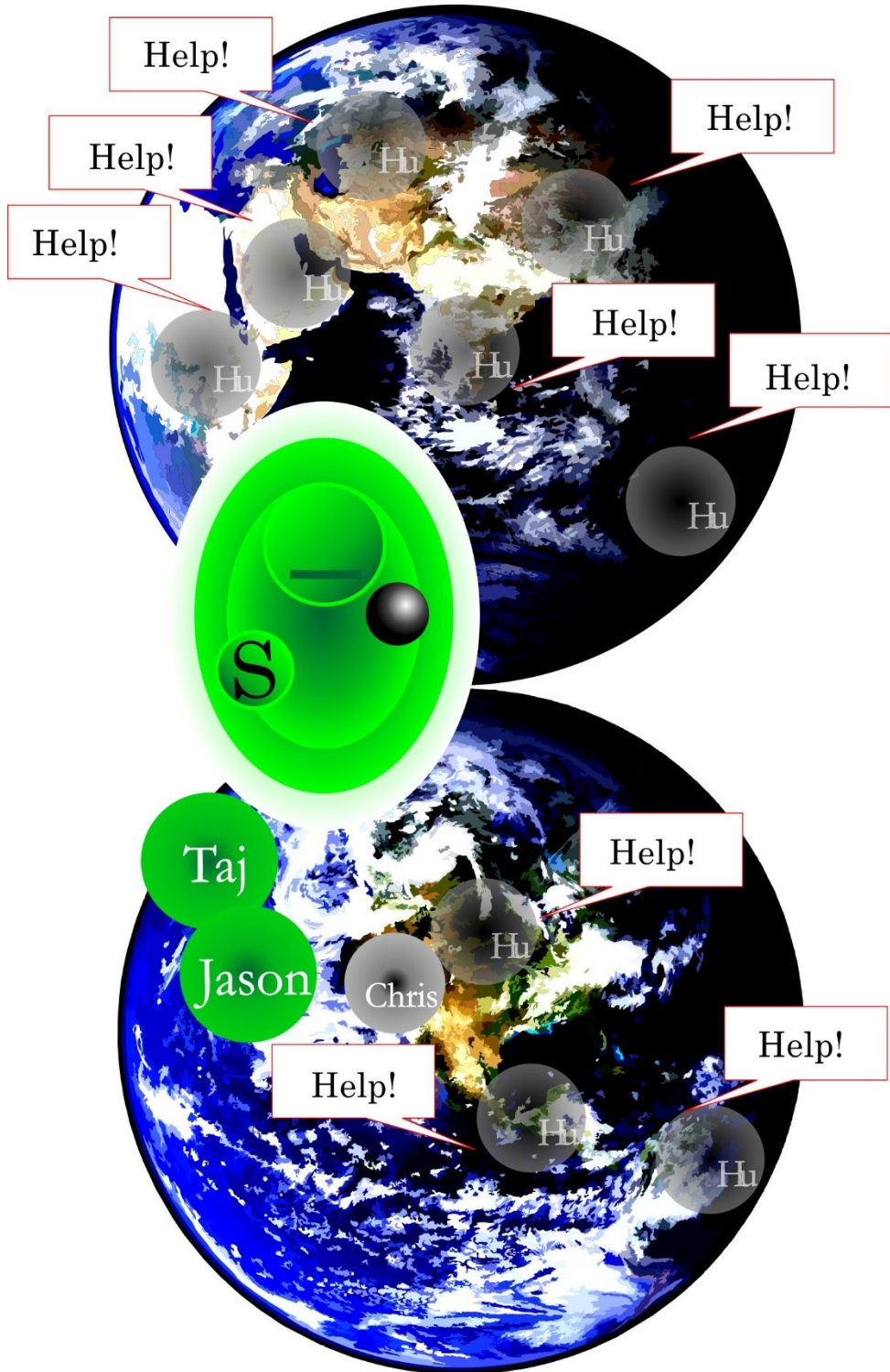
“Chris, Shepherd, without reservation, we accept your offer,” affirm all remaining human leaders. “We agree to your terms. We will make all changes necessary to our survival. All changes necessary to a thriving future for all of Earth, including all non-human creatures.”

“But please help us. Xtinct is moving very quickly now. We know we don’t have enough time to do it on our own. Again, we need your help. We need it now!”

“Please!”

“We are disappearing!”

Xtinct – Universal Justice for Earth





Chapter 12. Distrust

Near Earth (Day 66. 150 Years After Day of Choice.).

From a distance, Xtinct observes humans as they plea for help. As they claim to have seen the error of their ways. As they claim they will change their behavior. As Chris and Shepherd try to help.

“I have observed them for some time,” thinks Xtinct, skeptical of their resolve. “I hear their words. I see their behavior.”

“I honestly don’t believe humans, or at least many, many of them. I’m not sure they will change even if they can. I’m not sure they even can.”

“While I admire what Chris and Shepherd are trying to do, I don’t believe they will succeed. Earth and non-human creatures are increasingly at risk. Time is running out for them. I must not wait.”

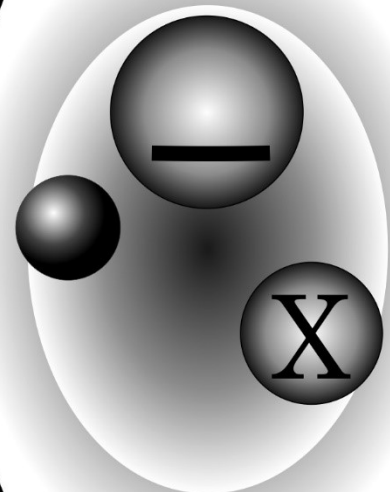
“My judgment still stands.”

As Xtinct doesn’t believe humans, the human extinction protocol continues.

More and more humans disappear.

Time is running out. The end is near.

Xtinct – Universal Justice for Earth





Chapter 13. Hope

Earth (Day 66. 150 Years After Day of Choice.).

With their own reservations about humans' commitment to change, Chris and Shepherd reach out to the remaining humans across Earth, "We have many reasons to believe the human cause is lost. We hear your words. But we have many good reasons to doubt your resolve."

"Most importantly, Xtinct doubts your resolve. Does not believe that you will change your behavior. That you will remove the threat to Earth."

"But we still have some hope. Your enormous potential remains. Even though you squandered much of it. There may be enough potential left."

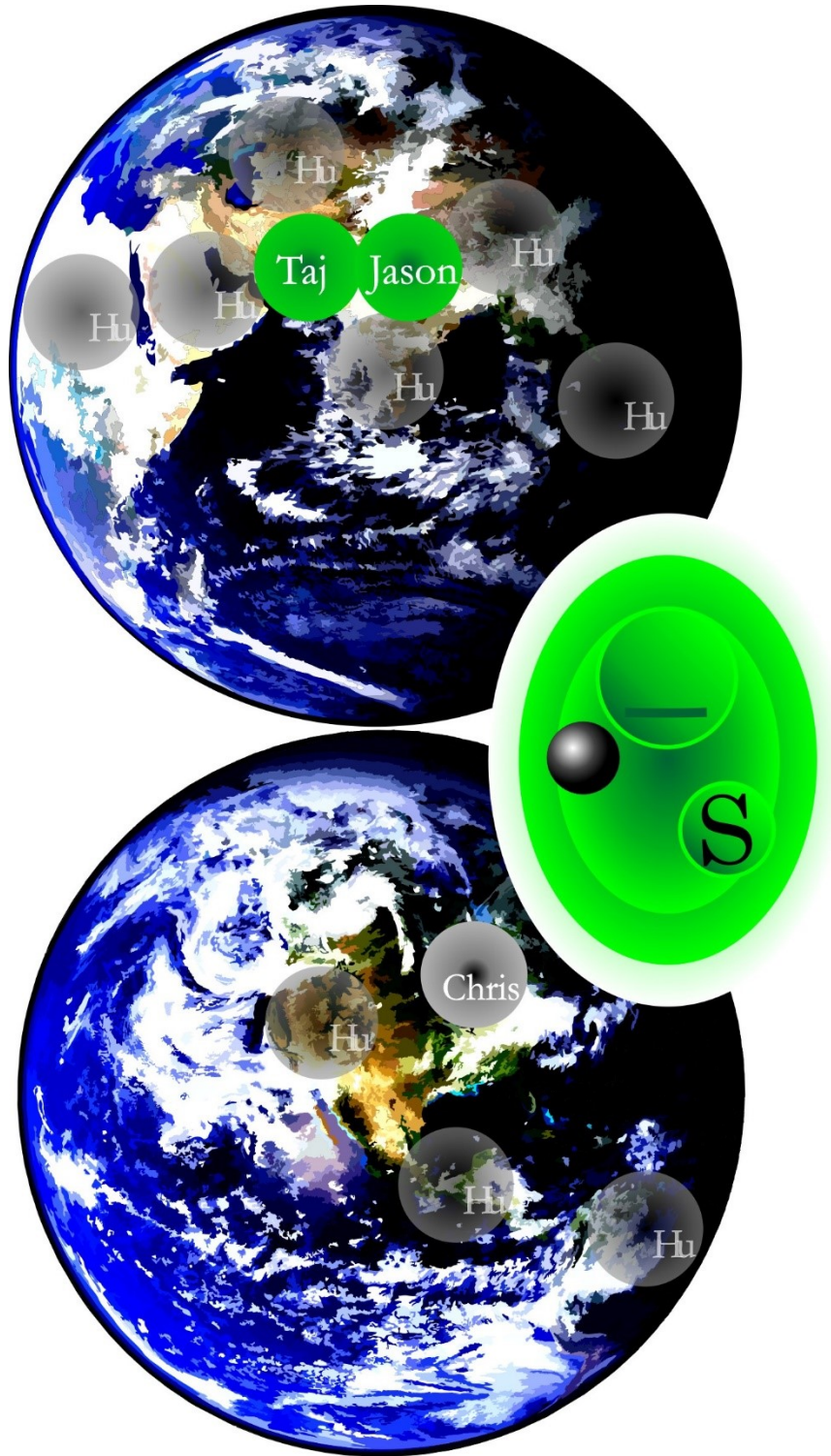
"We, in partnership with Taj and Jason, will side with you to stop the human extinction protocol. To preserve what is left of the human species. To build a better future. Maybe even a thriving future."

"Be clear the odds are slim. Xtinct, as are we, is very powerful. Xtinct is even more powerful with black box."

"But then so are we. You have Taj, Jason and the two of us. You have our two black boxes."

"Xtinct is well down the path on early human extinction and has much momentum. It will take all we have to have a chance to stop human extinction."

Xtinct – Universal Justice for Earth





Chapter 14. Preparation

Earth (Day 67. 150 Years After Day of Choice.).

With the future of the human species at stake, both sides prepare.

This struggle will be one not seen across the universe.

On the one side, a species that, by its selfish and shortsighted behavior, lost its right to exist. On the other side, universal justice.

It is hope versus resignation. Optimism versus pessimism.

Both sides have enormous power. Xtinct's planet level power. Shepherd's planet level power. Each has the most powerful black box that has ever existed.

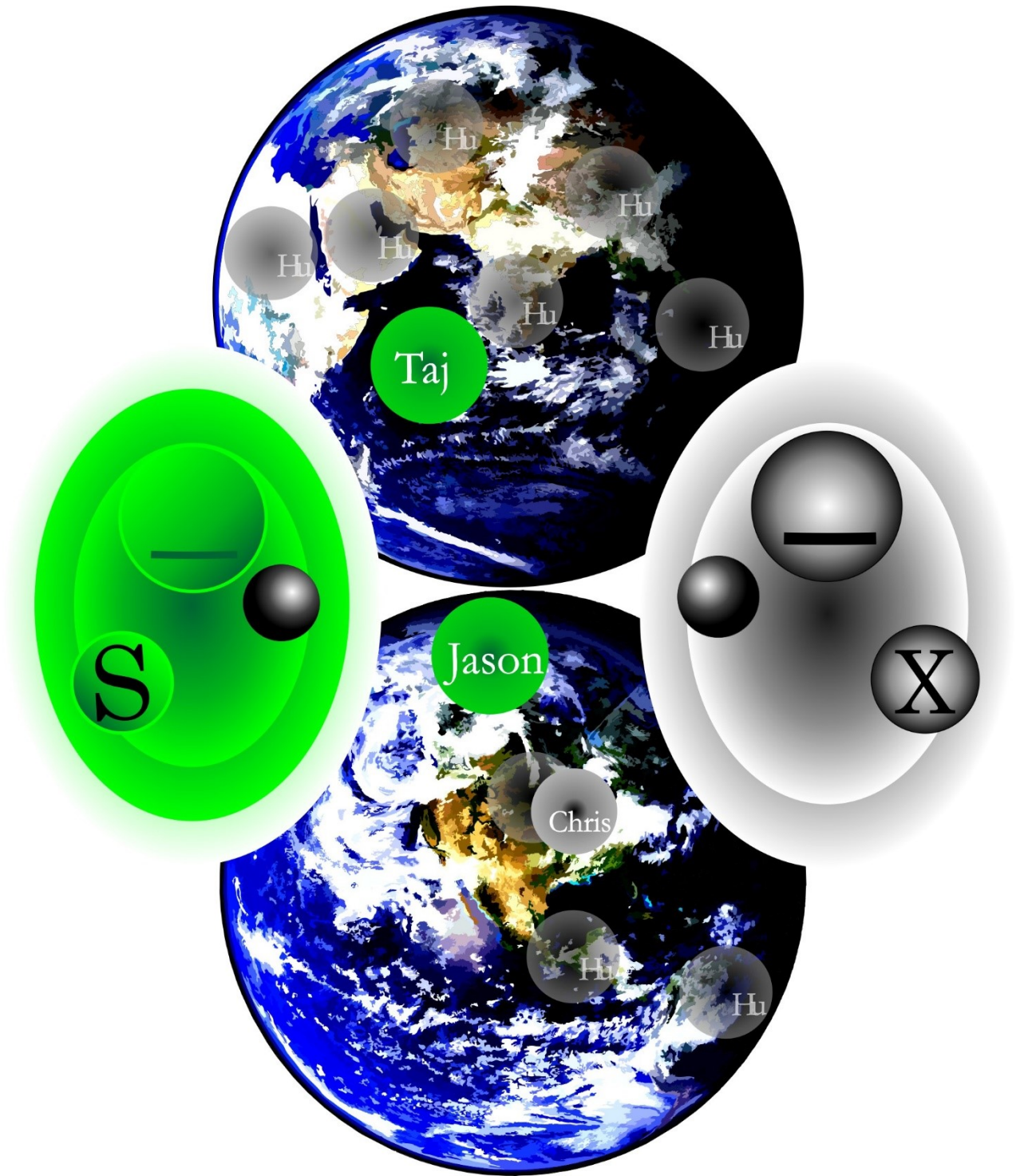
Shepherd has an advantage. Taj, Jason and their black box. Has Chris and the Thrive! Endeavor leaders.

Shepherd may have one other advantage. Both Xtinct and Shepherd really want the same future. Want a better and thriving future for Earth and all its creatures, including humans.

Over three days, Chris and Shepherd send instructions to all leaders joined with the Thrive! Endeavor. These leaders and all their people must carry out these instructions and succeed in their execution.

If not, all will be lost. Humans will be lost.

Preparations are now complete.





Chapter 15. Guardians Of The Future

High Above Earth (Day 70. 150 Years After Day of Choice.).

High above Earth, Xtinct and Shepherd meet one last time before the struggle begins.

Xtinct speaks with deep resolve, “Shepherd, we both have missions to fulfill. We both want the same end, a surviving and thriving Earth. But humans threaten this achievable end.”

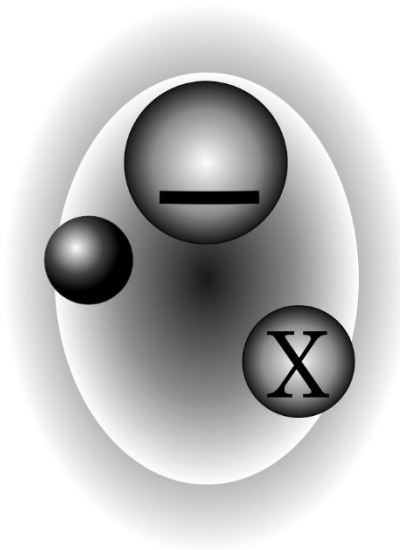
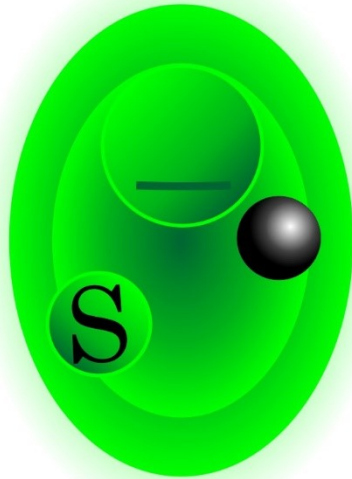
Sharing Xtinct’s concern, Shepherd responds, also with deep resolve, “Yes, we both have the same mission. You have given up on humans. I will not, at least not yet. We are both guardians of the future. We both must make our best judgment and proceed.”

Showing some uneasiness and some agreement, Xtinct responds, “Yes, the Decider expects nothing less from us. This is not just about Earth. It is about any species that threatens its home planet and all the other creatures who live on that planet. That threatens other planets.”

“I agree,” acknowledges Shepherd as the final statement. “May the outcome of the upcoming struggle be the right one for Earth and the rest of the universe.”

“You and I will have much to think about once this is over. Much to jointly consider.”

Xtinct – Universal Justice for Earth





Chapter 16. The End Or Not The End?

Earth (Day 70. 150 Years After Day of Choice.).

As at any moment in time, there are many possible futures, as long as there remains a future.

For Earth at this moment, this could either be the end or not the end for part or all of Earth.

While much has taken place and much damage has been done by humans, the future is still uncertain. It still largely depends on the remaining humans' minds and hearts as to what the future will be. On the remaining humans' behavior.

Is the future early human extinction but with a thriving future for Earth and its non-human creatures?

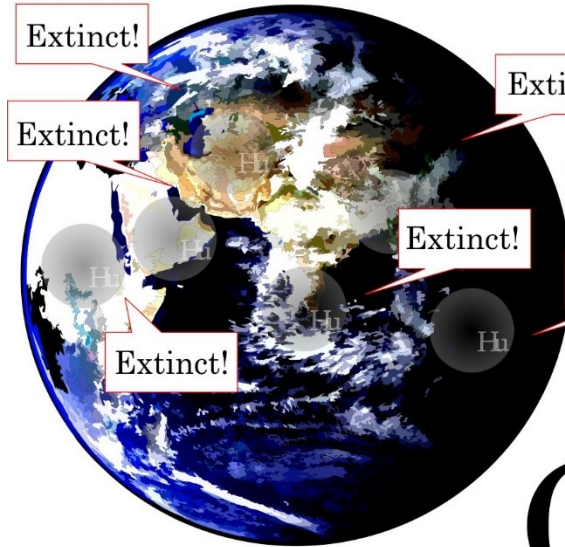
Or is it a thriving future for Earth and all its creatures, including humans?

Or, as is the current path, is it early extinction for Earth and all its creatures, including humans?

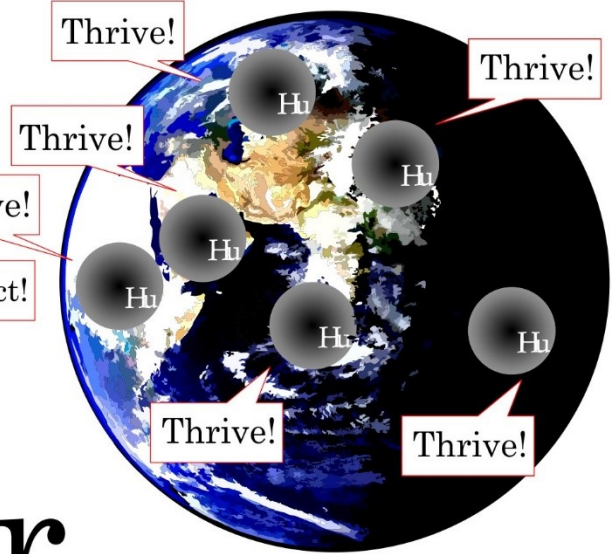
Xtinct and Shepherd already decided that Earth's future will not be the latter.

The question remains. The end or not the end for humans?

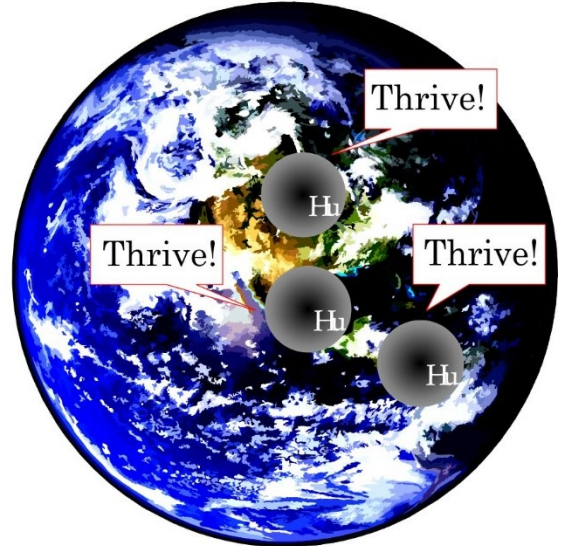
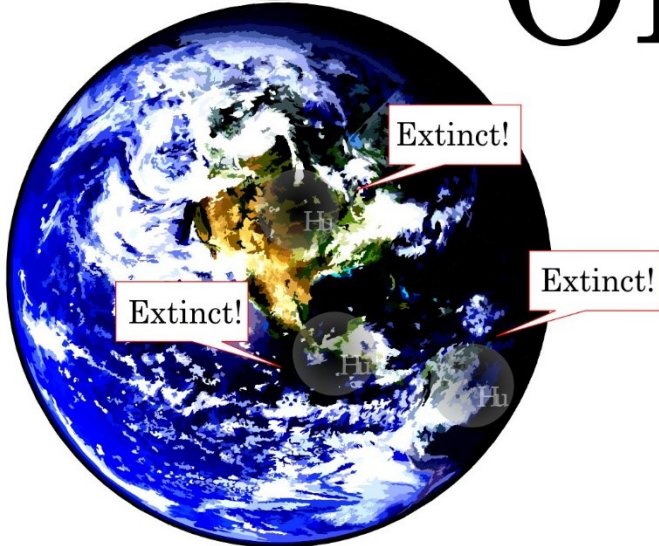
Human Extinction



Human Extinction Avoided



Or





... Chapter 16.1. Human Extinction (The End?)

Earth (Day 70. 150 Years After Day of Choice.).

This struggle was never going to be a long one. Both Xtinct and Shepherd knew the question of Earth's fate would be answered quickly.

Day 70 begins like the previous day. Xtinct continues the extinction protocol. All over Earth, humans disappear at an alarming rate.

Cries of anguish rise across Earth, "No!". "We don't deserve this!" "We were wrong!" "Save us!" But increasingly, more and more cries are extinguished. More and more humans are extinguished.

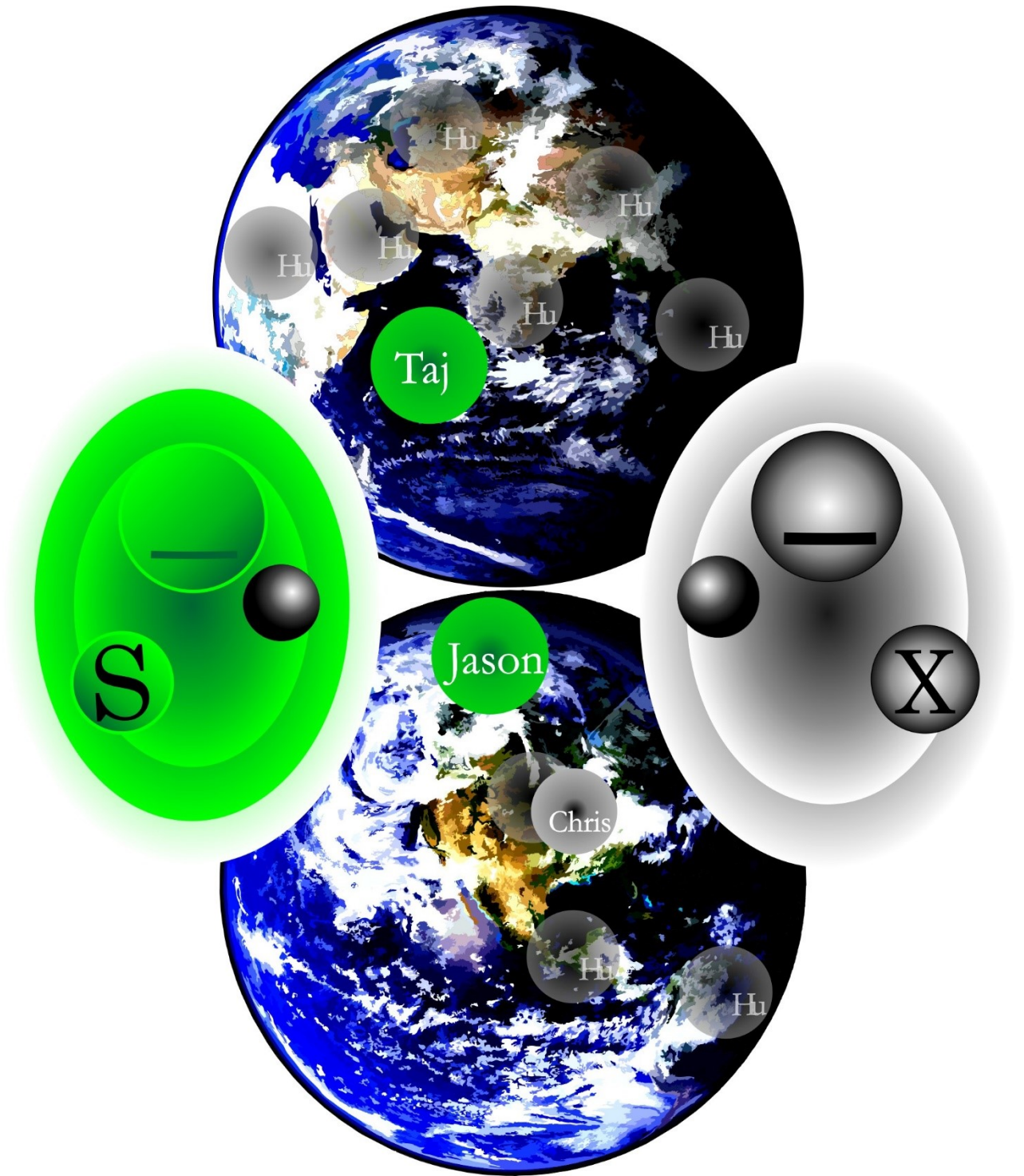
With their black boxes, Shepherd, Taj and Jason partner with Chris and whatever humans are committed to positive change. Committed to saving the human species. Committed to saving Earth.

Progress is made. But will it be enough? Soon enough?

But there are still counterforces who resist change. And they are strong. But fewer and fewer of them every hour. But still strong enough to prevent enough change to save the human species. Prevent enough change to save Earth and its non-human creatures.

The selfish, shortsighted counterforces are still strong enough.

Chris and her people are not winning.



The counterforces are too strong to turn the future to thriving.

Humans show themselves as a species unwilling to do what is needed to save themselves. To save Earth and its non-human creatures.

The struggle is over.

Xtinct finishes the extinction protocol. Only a few humans like Chris survive, but only for a short time. Not long enough to continue the human species.

Within hours, humans are extinct. Even Chris is gone. Earth and other creatures survive.

Xtinct sends a message to the Decider, “It is done. Earth’s humans are no more.”

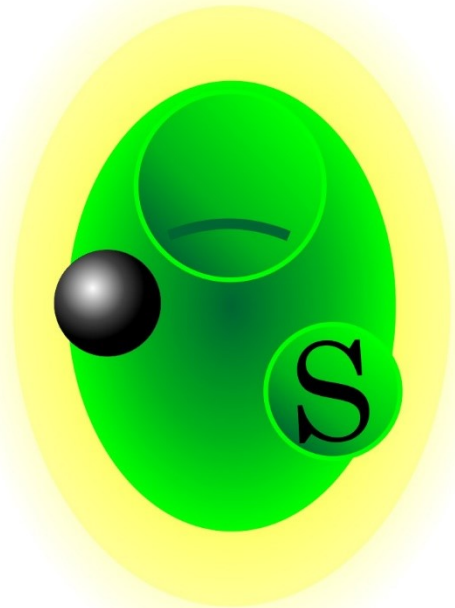
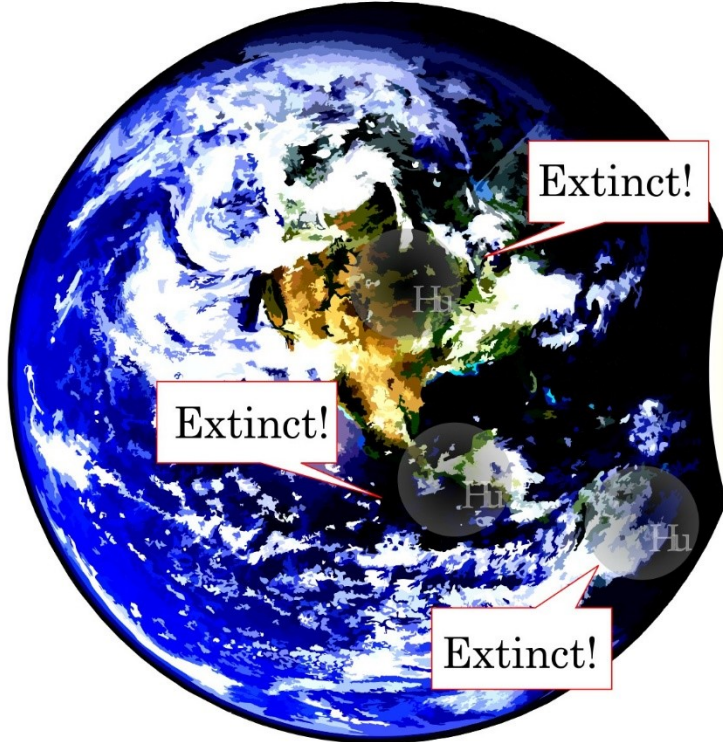
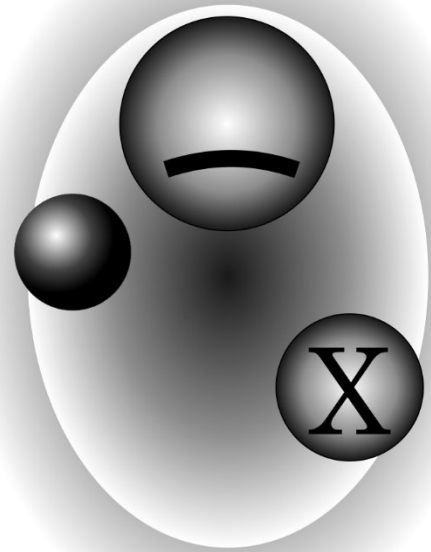
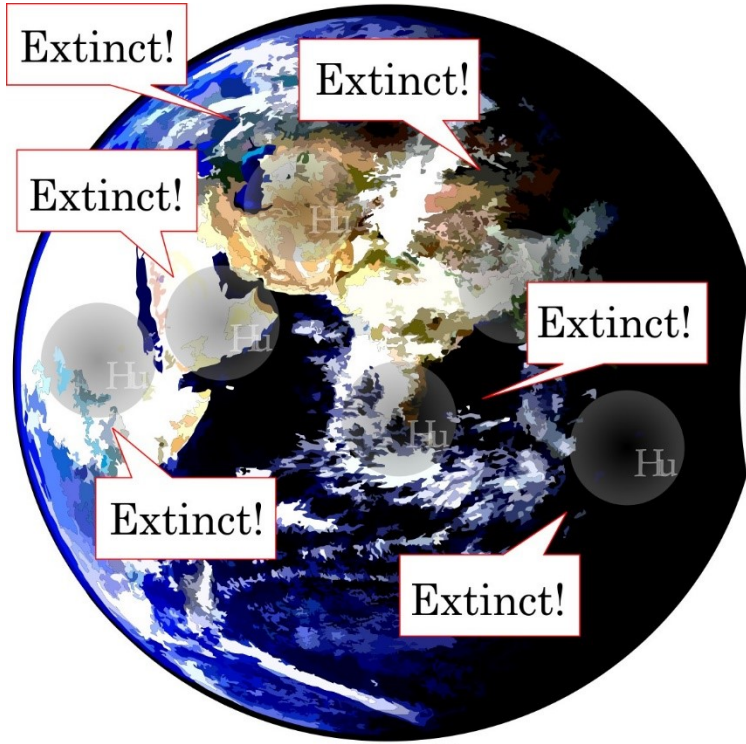
Almost in tears, Xtinct turns to Shepherd, “Never, never again do I want to extinguish a species with so much positive potential.”

Shepherd acknowledges defeat and agrees, “Never should the Decider and we let a species dominate as did the human species. No one wins. As you say, enormous potential and an enormous failure.”

Universal justice has been applied. Xtinct, with great sadness, leaves Earth and returns to the Decider. To fully report how universal justice was applied to Earth.

Shepherd, Taj and Jason are gone. Shepherd turns to other planets where no species is as dominant or destructive as humans. But they still need help to ensure a thriving future.

Taj and Jason return to their own time on Earth. They know that for a time in Earth’s history, Earth was on the path to a thriving future. But they know that, in this future, their fellow humans are no more.





... Chapter 16.2. Human Extinction Avoided (Not The End?)

Earth (Day 70. 150 Years After Day of Choice.).

This struggle was never going to be a long one. Both Xtinct and Shepherd knew the question of Earth's fate would be known quickly.

Day 70 begins like the previous day. Xtinct continues the extinction protocol. All over Earth, more humans disappear.

Cries of anguish rise across Earth, "No!". "Save us!" "We don't deserve this!" "We were wrong!" . But increasingly, more and more cries are extinguished. More and more humans are extinguished.

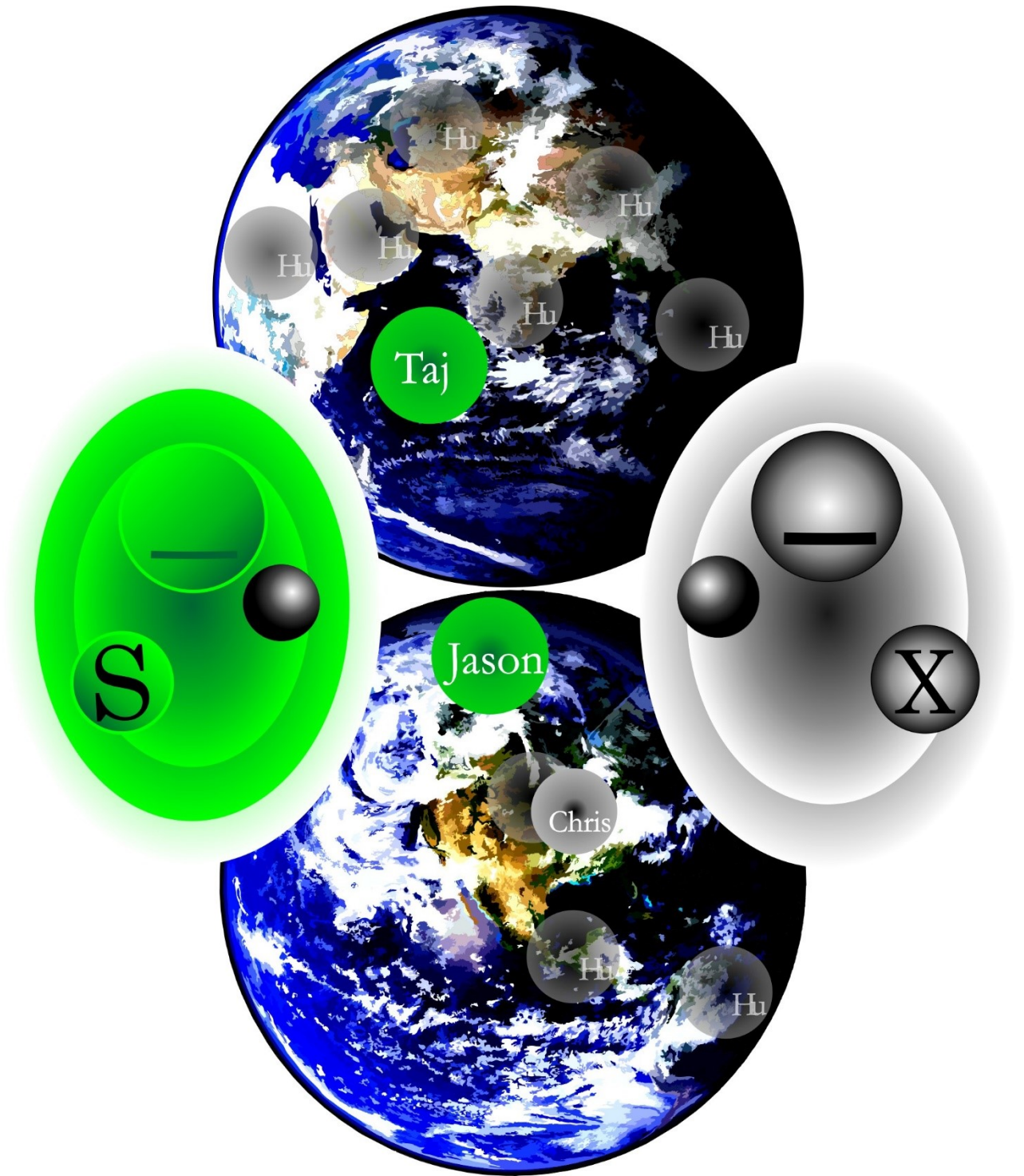
With black boxes to help, Shepherd, Taj and Jason partner with Chris and whatever humans are committed to positive change. Committed to saving the human species. Committed to saving Earth.

Progress is being made. But will it be enough? Soon enough?

Though there are still counterforces who resist change, there are fewer and fewer of them every hour.

Growing ever stronger, the forces of positive change take control. Chris and her people take control. Human behavior turns positive.

Mistakes are corrected. Path to a thriving future is taken.



Finally, humans show themselves as a species able and willing to do what is necessary to save themselves. To save Earth and its non-human creatures. To build and sustain a thriving future.

The struggle is over.

Shepherd, along with Taj and Jason, succeeds. Humans, with Chris' leadership, succeed.

Accepting the change, Xtinct stops and then reverses the extinction protocol. Humans reappear. Are not extinct. Earth and its non-human creatures survive and begin again to thrive. Black box goes dormant.

Xtinct sends a message to the Decider, "It is done. The judgment is reversed. Humans will not suffer early extinction."

Xtinct, returns to natural green and turns to Shepherd, "Never, never again do I want to get this close to extinguishing a species with so much potential."

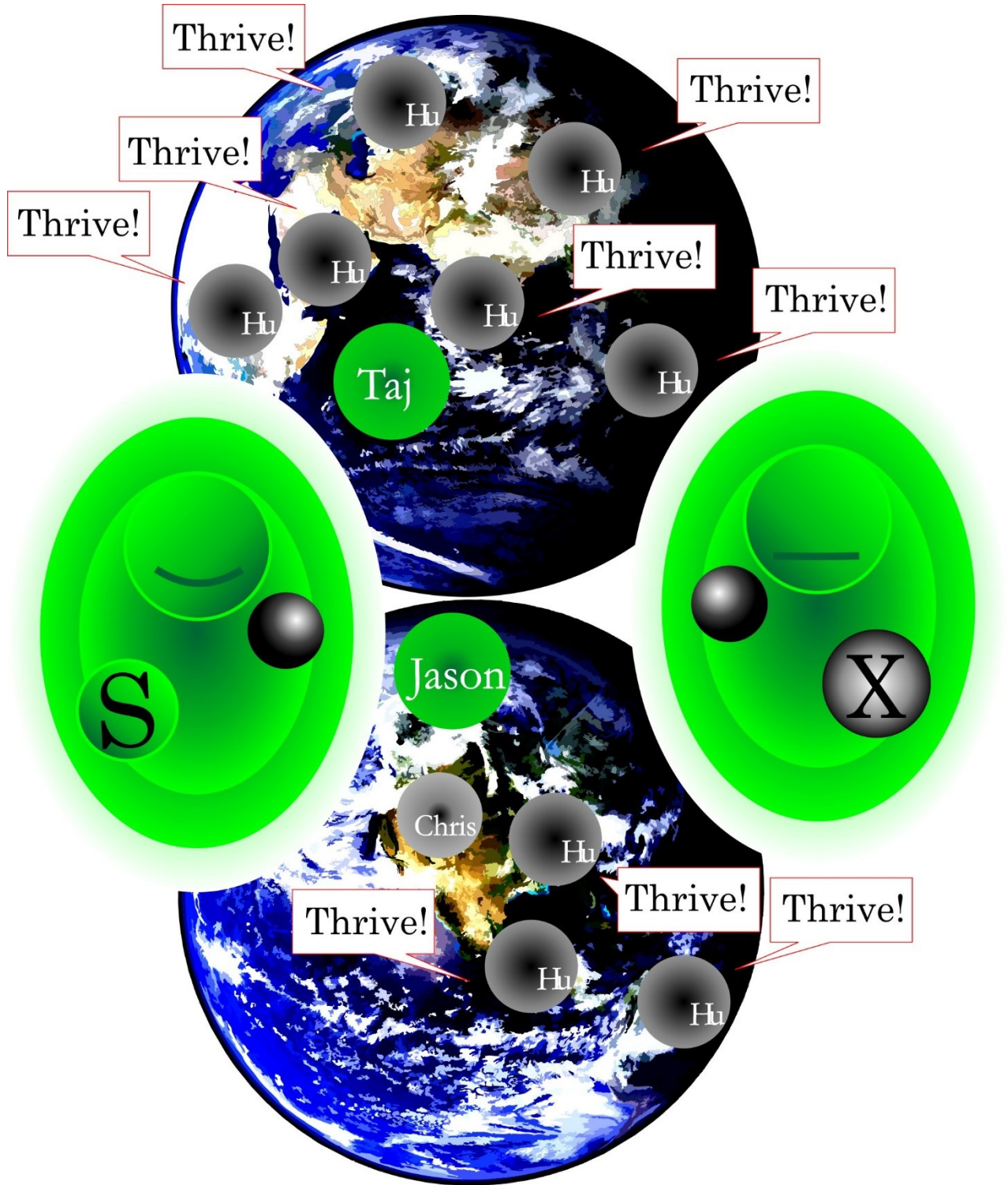
Shepherd agrees, "Never should the Decider and we let a species dominate as did the human species. In the end, no one really won. As you say, enormous capability and, for a time, enormous failure."

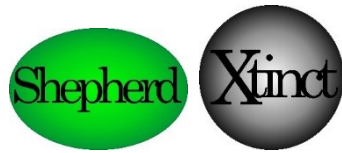
Xtinct cautions Shepherd, "You and I have the same responsibility. Earth and all non-human creatures must survive and thrive. If humans backslide, I will return. You will have no choice but to join with me."

Shepherd is silent but tilts ever so slightly in acknowledgement.

Universal justice has been applied. Xtinct leaves Earth and returns to the Decider to fully report how universal justice was applied to Earth.

Humans do not go extinct. Humans, Earth and non-human creatures survive and thrive. Humans celebrate. For now.





Epilogues

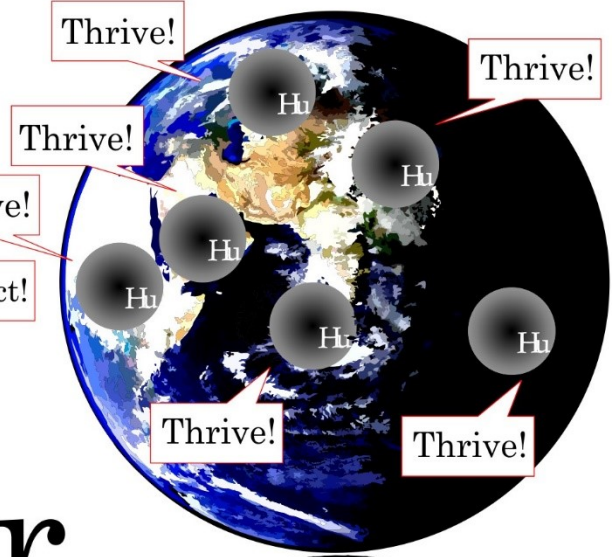
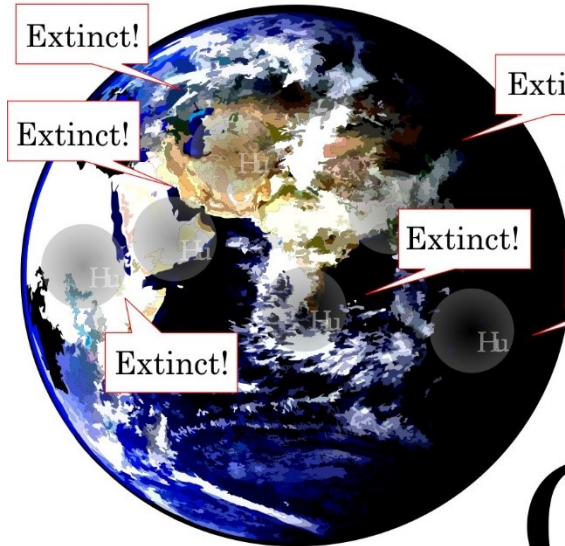
Earth (Day 71+. 150 Years After Day of Choice.).

At any moment in time, there are alternative futures.

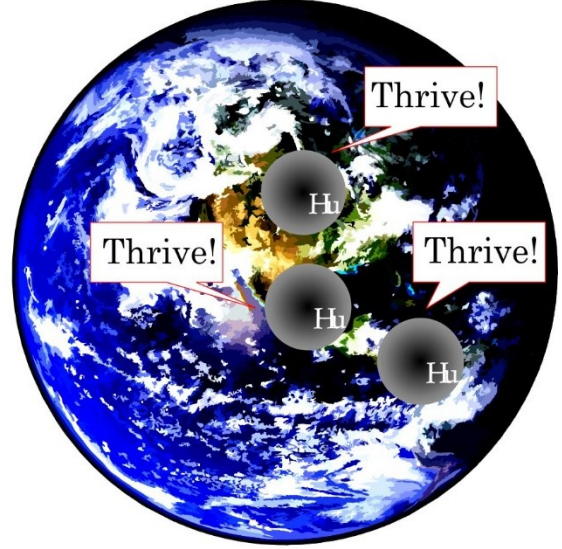
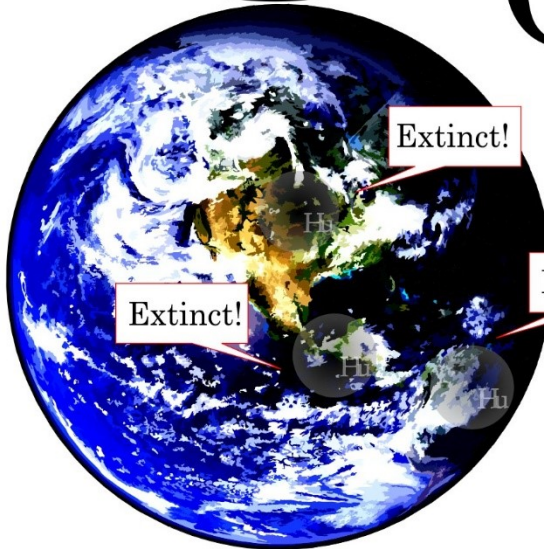
At any moment in time, there are epilogues to those alternative futures.

Human Extinction

Human Extinction Avoided



Or

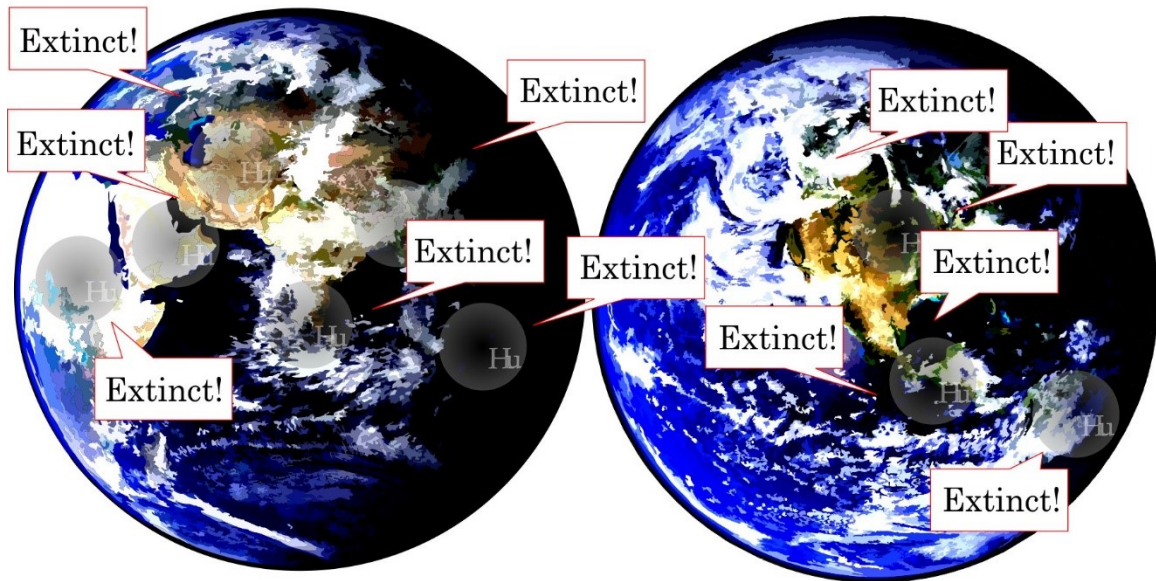




... Epilogue 1. Human Extinction

Earth (Day 71+. 150 Years After Day of Choice.).

Human Extinction



Human extinction.

Humans are gone. Even Chris is gone. Good news for Earth and its non-human creatures.

No longer are Earth and its non-human creatures threatened by the selfish, shortsighted behavior of humans.

Xtinct and Shepherd, with the help of black boxes, corrected the most egregious damage done by humans. Made sure that Earth and its non-human creatures were on a clear path to a thriving future.

It will be some time before Earth and its non-human creatures fully recover. But they will.

What remains to be seen is what Earth will be like with humans extinct.

How will non-human creatures develop over the millennia to come? Will one of the existing species grow strong and try to dominate? Will a new species emerge, as did the humans, and try to dominate?

If so, the Decider and Xtinct will again apply universal justice. No species will again be allowed to dominate all other species or threaten Earth.

Is there risk of a dominating species coming to Earth from another planet? No. The Decider and Xtinct, applying universal justice, will not allow it. Shepherd will not allow it.

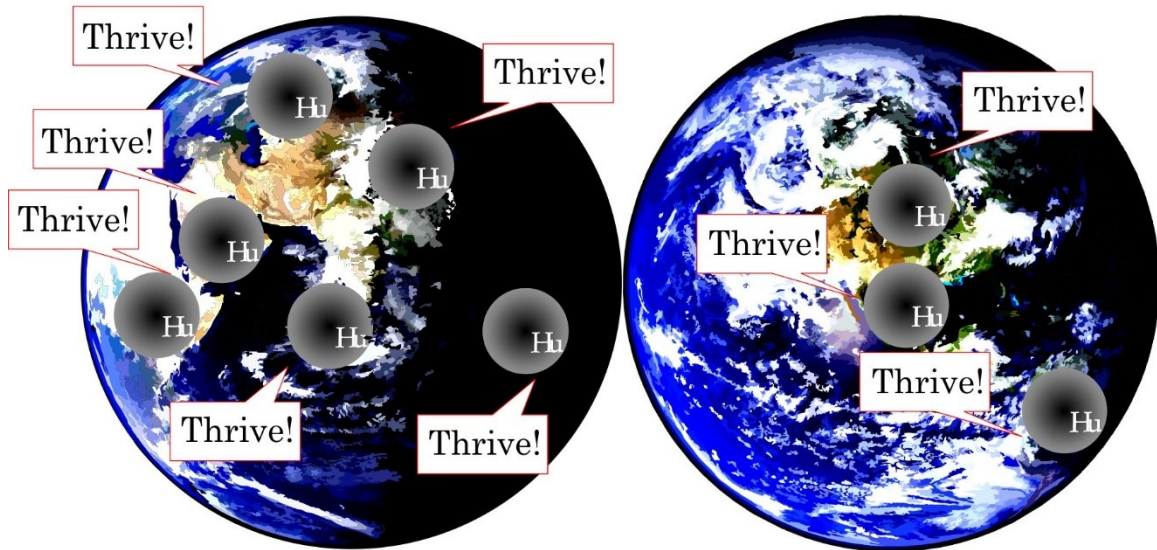
For as long as Earth is habitable, Earth and non-human creatures will survive and thrive.



... Epilogue 2. Human Extinction Avoided

Earth (Day 71+. 150 Years After Day of Choice.).

Human Extinction Avoided



Human extinction avoided. Good news for humans. Good news for Earth and its non-human creatures. For now.

For now, humans are finally caring for their home planet. For all the creatures on their home planet. For now, humans are busily correcting all their mistakes and repairing all their damage.

For now, humans are behaving in a way that shows they are committed to all, not just some. To thriving, not just getting by or surviving. To forever, not just today and near-term tomorrows.

To “all thrive forever.”

They adopt a new Earth constitution: ***We the people of Earth commit to a thriving future for all forever.***

But will it last? Will humans stay on the path to thriving future? Or will they fail again, as they did 50 years ago. Chris and other human leaders are determined not to fail.

Shepherd knows that if humans fail, then Xtinct must return and apply universal justice. Knows the three of them will not be allowed to help humans another time.

But it will be even worse.

If humans fail again, Shepherd must follow “universal justice”. Must join with Xtinct.

Must protect Earth and its non-human creatures from humans.

If failure is judged, all humans will go extinct instantly.

Xtinct – Universal Justice for Earth