

BE A HERO FOR A BETTER WORLD



Do One Thing for a Better World

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What's Your  
**BetterWorld**  
 Issue:  
**BIODIVERSITY**  
 ...make a difference...  
 Do One Thing  
 for a Better World.  
 Together  
 We Make a World of Difference!  
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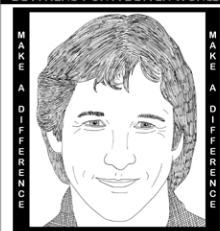
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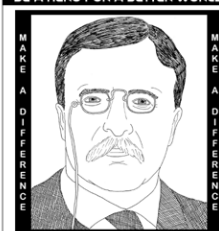
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# WHAT'S YOUR BETTERWORLD ISSUE? BIODIVERSITY



"As custodians of the planet it is our responsibility to deal with all species with kindness, love and compassion."

-- Richard Gere

Many people are helping to make the world a better place, but humanity as a whole is making it difficult for other living creatures that share our planet to survive. As humans clear the land to build, and pollute the land, air and water, wildlife habitats are being destroyed. Some scientists estimate that each year 140,000 species of plants and animals become extinct -- there are no more of those kinds of plants or animals left on the planet! Scientists estimate that if we keep doing what we're doing, 20% of all living species will be extinct in 30 years, and half of all living species will be extinct within the next century!

Recognizing the importance of protecting other living species, 150 nations signed the Convention on Biological Diversity at the Rio Earth Summit in 1992. One definition of "biological diversity" or "biodiversity" is the totality of genes, species, and ecosystems of a region, and this document helps set up real and tangible goals for nations to achieve in order to protect living species and their habitats.

BioDiversity Day is a chance to promote conservation of biological diversity and call for the sustainable and equitable use of the resources of the natural environment.

## Do One Thing for a Better World

1. Find out more about biodiversity
2. Hold an event to raise awareness and funds for biological diversity
3. Contribute to an organization promoting biodiversity

## Organizations Promoting BioDiversity

BioDiversity Project ([biodiversityproject.org](http://biodiversityproject.org))  
Convention on Biological Diversity ([biodiv.org](http://biodiv.org))  
Center for Biodiversity and Conservation ([cbc.amnh.org](http://cbc.amnh.org))  
Nature Conservancy ([nature.org](http://nature.org))  
Redlist of Threatened Species ([redlist.org](http://redlist.org))  
World Conservation Union ([iucn.org](http://iucn.org))

## DO ONE THING

The Emily Fund - Education, Mentorship, Inspiration, Leadership, Youth for a better world

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**"We are committed with our lives to building a different model and a different future for humanity, the Earth, and other species. We have envisaged a moral alternative to economic globalization and we will not rest until we see it realized. -- Maude Barlow**

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"Our ethical traditions know how to deal with suicide, homicide and even genocide, but these traditions collapse entirely when confronted with biocide, the killing of the life systems of the earth, and geocide, the devastation of the earth itself." ~ Thomas Berry

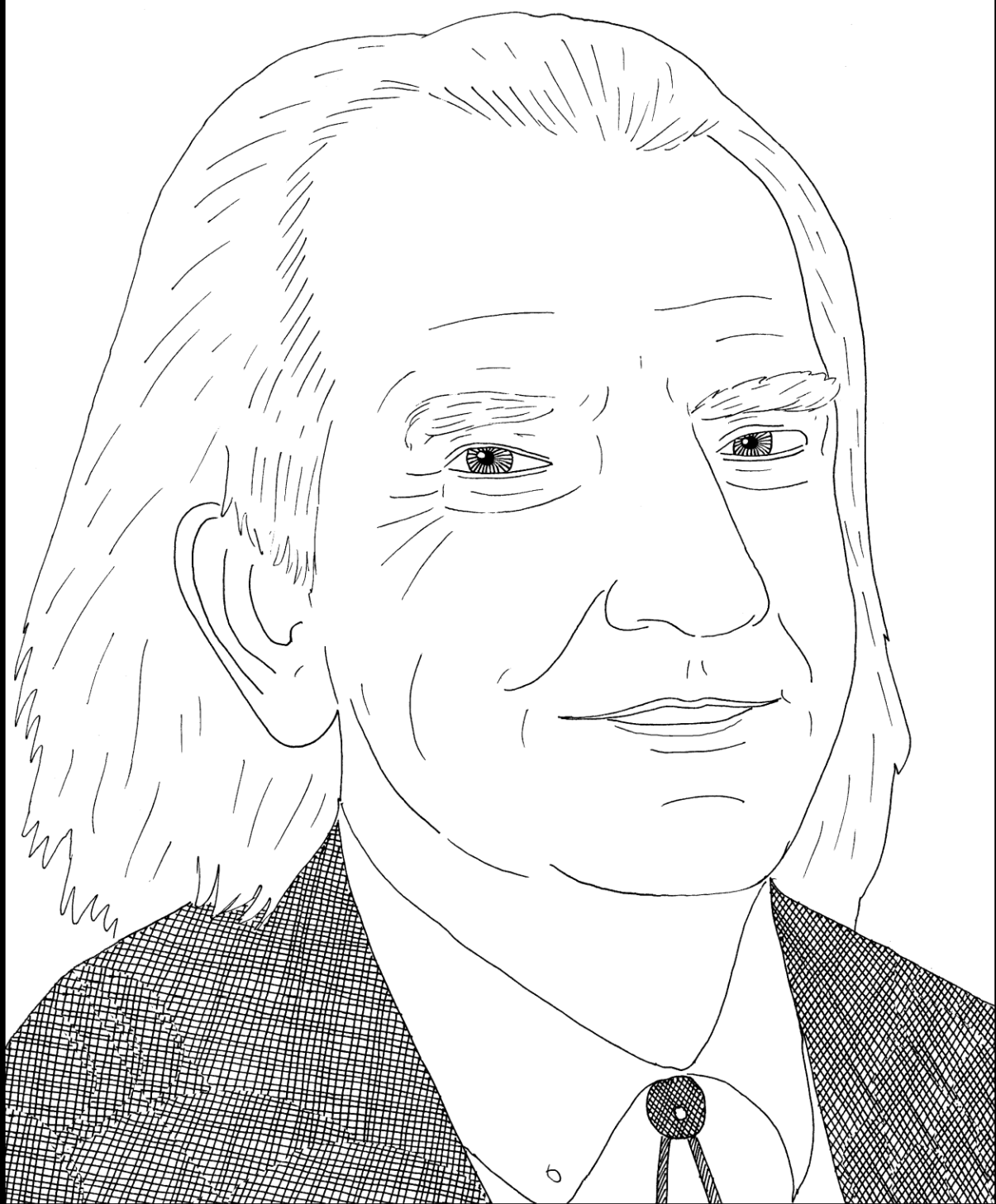
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**"Are we to regard the world of nature simply as a storehouse  
to be robbed for the immediate benefit of man?"**

**-- Kenneth Boulding**

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"A diverse ecosystem will also be resilient, because it contains many species with overlapping ecological functions that can partially replace one another. When a particular species is destroyed by a severe disturbance so that a link in the network is broken, a diverse community will be able to survive and reorganize itself..."  
-- Fritjof Capra

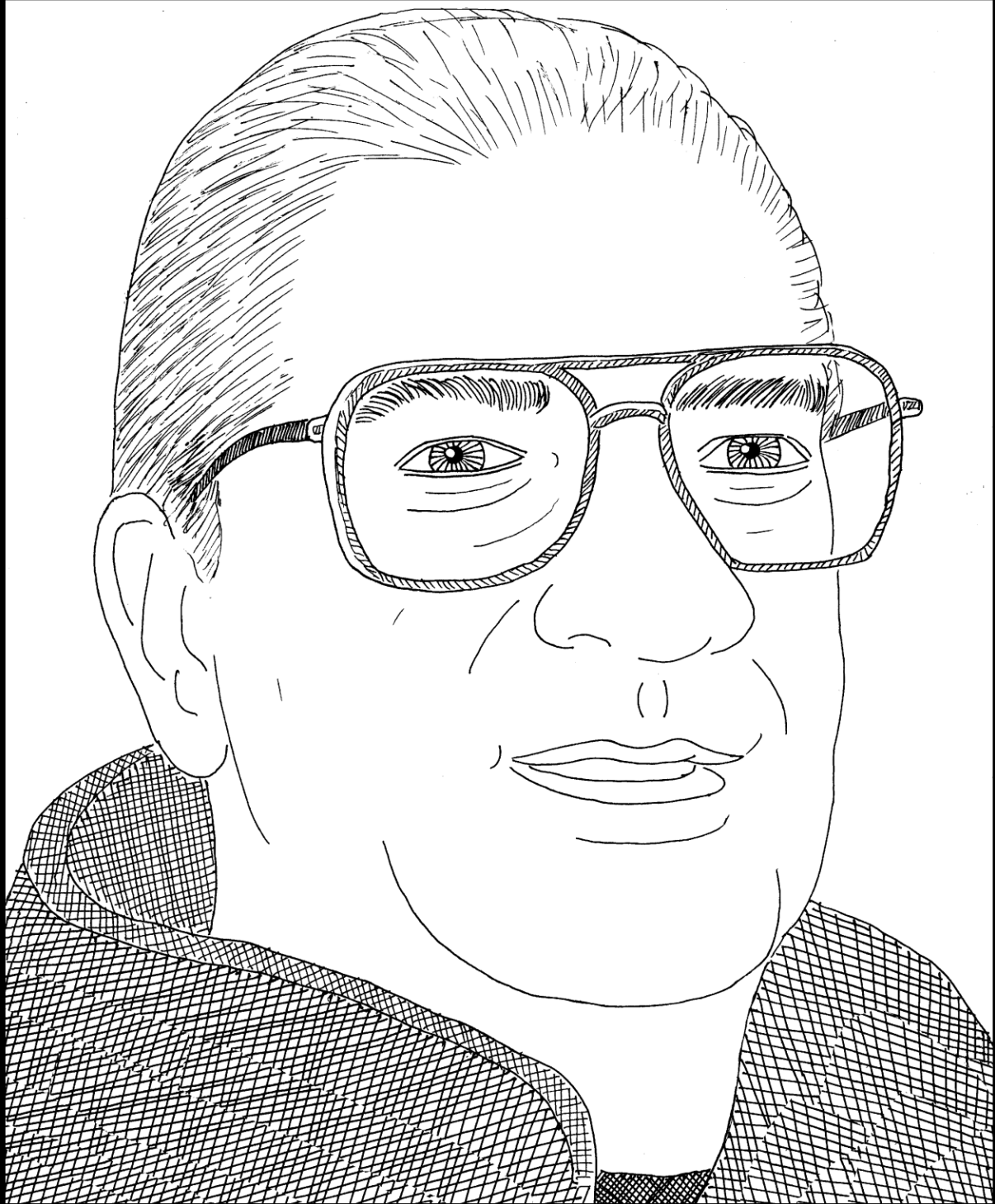
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**"There is something fundamentally wrong with treating  
the earth as if it were a business in liquidation."**

**-- Herman Daly**

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"When I was very young, biology, the diversity of life, was one of my main interests... I really care that so many species have been wiped out, like genocide of entire races. I believe in the divine right of all species to survive on this planet. So I decided I want to be active as an environmentalist. I learned. I asked experts. I got active."

-- Leonardo DiCaprio

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**"Scientists know we must protect species  
because they are working parts of our life-support system."**

**-- Paul Ehrlich**

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**"Our health relies entirely on the vitality of our fellow species on Earth."  
-- Harrison Ford**

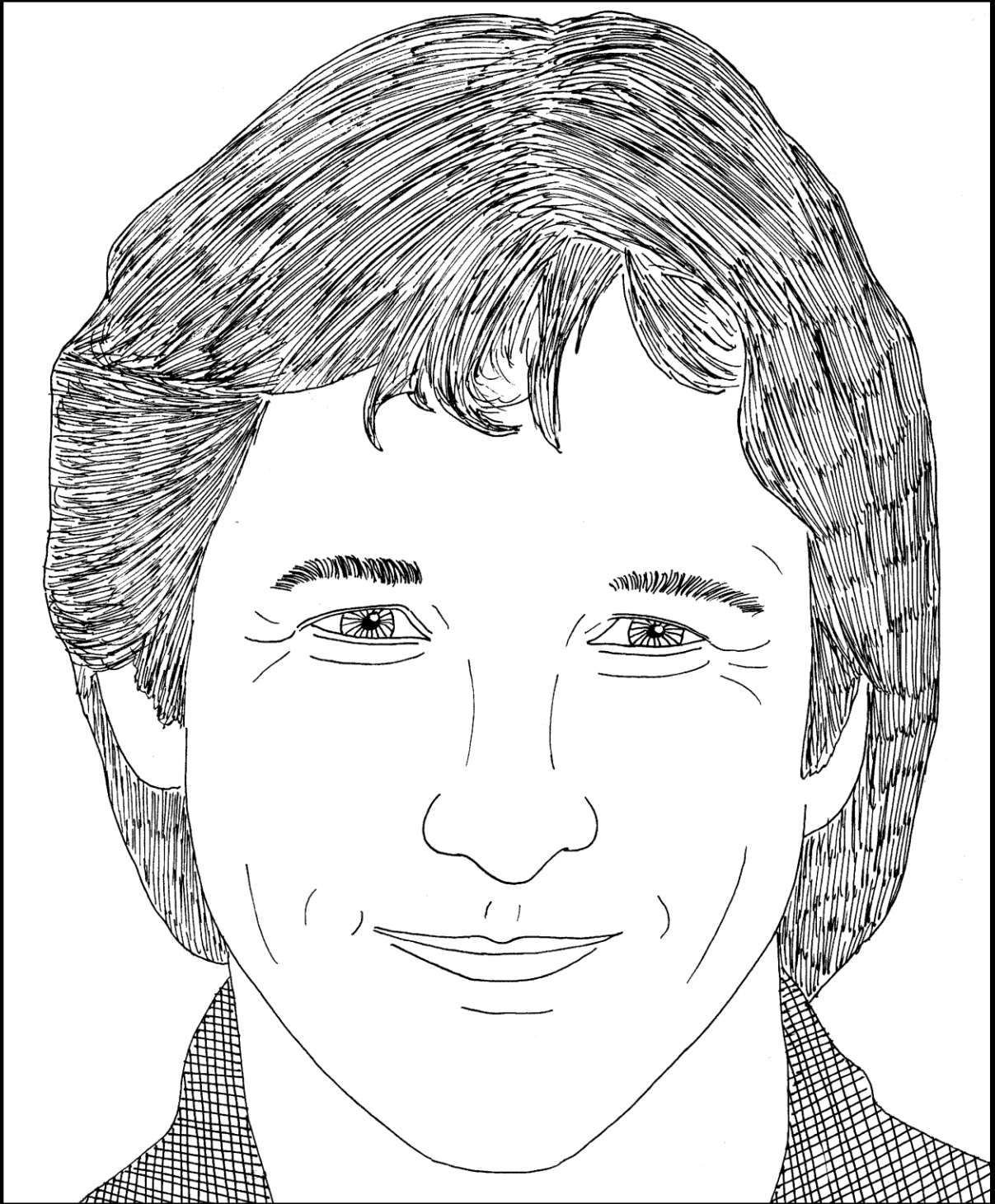
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"As custodians of the planet it is our responsibility to deal with all species with kindness, love and compassion. That these animals suffer through human cruelty is beyond understanding. Please help to stop this madness."

-- Richard Gere

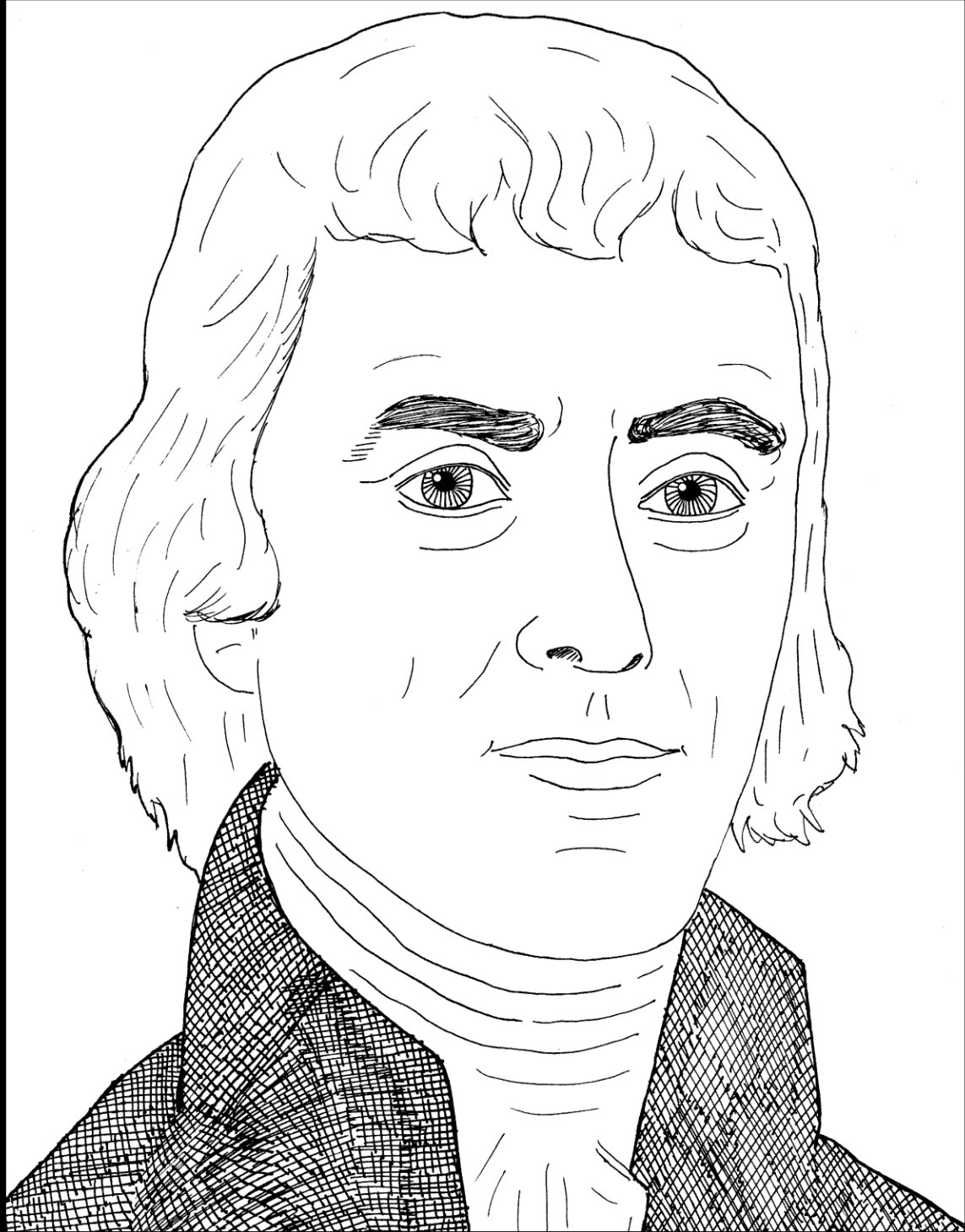
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**"For if one link in nature's chain might be lost,  
another might be lost, until the whole of things  
will vanish by piecemeal."**

**~ Thomas Jefferson**

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"What an extraordinary time to be alive. We're the first people on our planet to have real choice: we can continue killing each other, wiping out other species, spoiling our nest. Yet on every continent a revolution in human dignity is emerging. It is re-knitting community and our ties to the earth. So we do have a choice. We can choose death; or we can choose life." -- Frances Moore Lappé

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**"In the area of species protection,  
we should concern ourselves with what is right  
as opposed to what might be easier, or popular in the short term."  
~ Richard Leakey**

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**“The essential role of the environment is still marginal in discussions about poverty. While we continue to debate these initiatives, environmental degradation, including the loss of biodiversity and topsoil, accelerates, causing development efforts to falter.” Wangari Maathai**

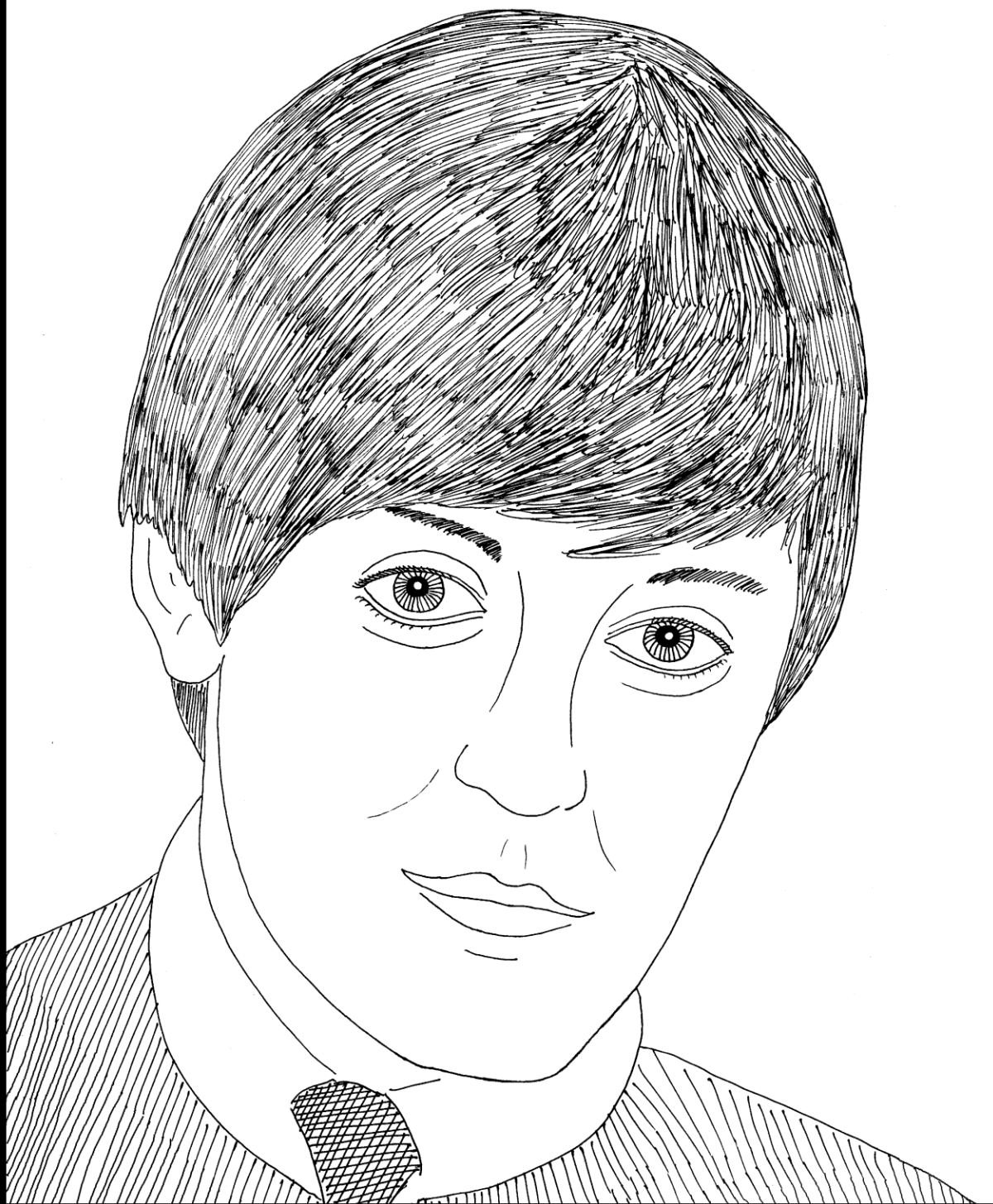
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"We've beaten into submission every animal on the face of the Earth, so we are the clear winners of whatever battle is going on between the species. Couldn't we be generous? I really do think it's time to get nice. No need to keep beating up on them. I think we've got to show that we're kind."  
-- Paul McCartney

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**"What little wilderness remains displays the patterns we must return to, if our species and as many others as now remain are to persist here a while."  
~ Stephanie Mills**

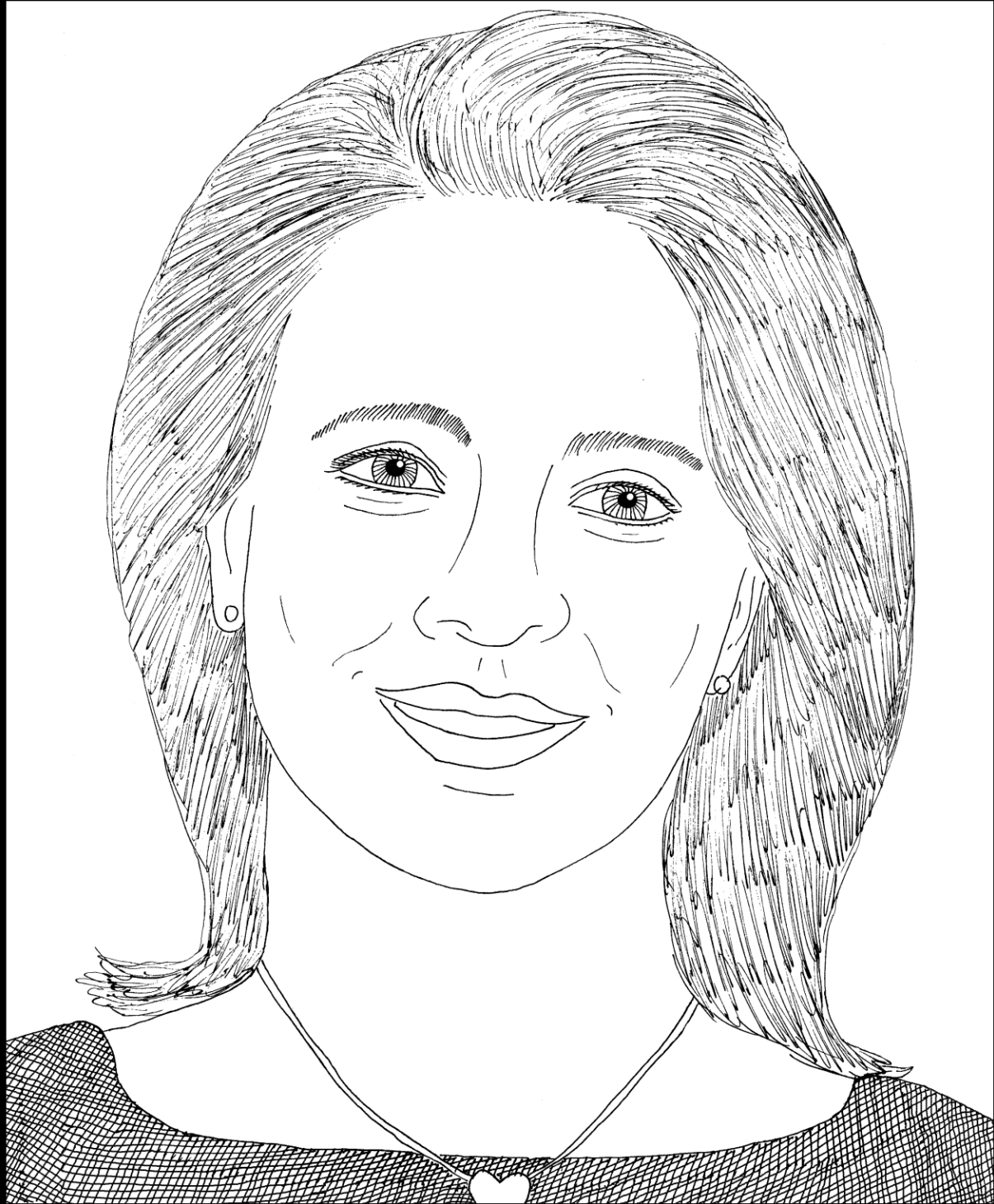
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**"We develop our beautiful planet in such a way that we brush aside the species... we risk creating a wasteland, where our aspirations will ultimately wither and die"**

**-- Queen Noor of Jordan**

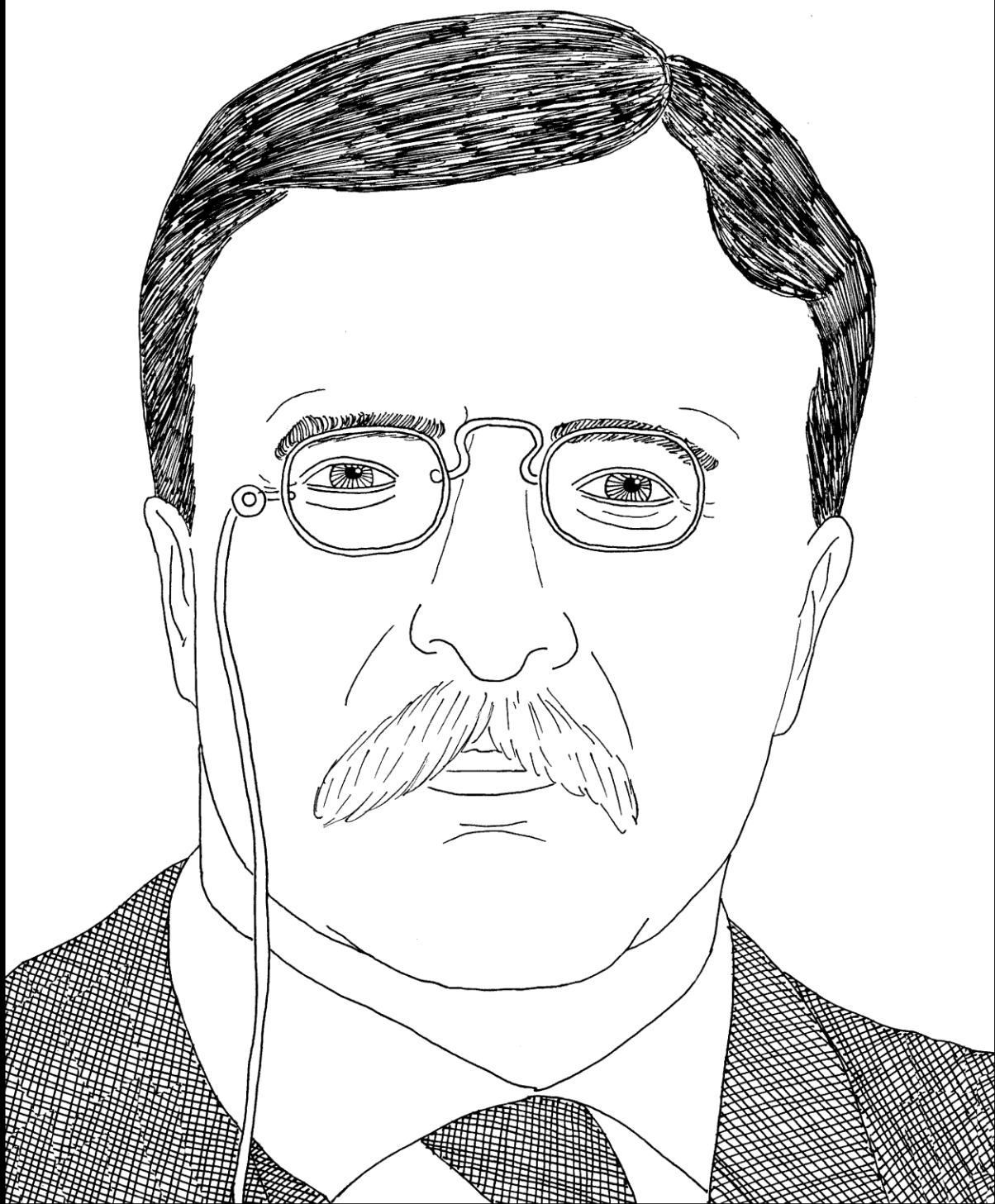
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**"When I hear of the destruction of a species,  
I feel just as if all the works of some great writer have perished."  
~ Theodore Roosevelt**

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"What is man without the beasts? If all the beasts were gone, man would die from a great loneliness of the spirit. For whatever happens to the beasts, soon happens to man. All things are connected."  
-- Chief Seattle

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**"Cultivating and conserving diversity is no luxury in our times:  
it is a survival imperative."**

**~ Vandana Shiva**

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**"...farmers and national genebanks in developing countries  
can work together to preserve and expand  
crop genetic diversity on behalf of all humanity."**

**~ Melaku Worede**

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