

Being Unselfish

Unselfish Path To Surviving and Thriving



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Thrive!

Nelson, WI

University Park, MD

Being Unselfish

Unselfish Path To Surviving and Thriving

Chaos!

Selfishness. Human selfishness threatens all.

A world badly treated. Damaged almost beyond repair.

Extreme weather. Storms causing enormous loss of all kinds of life.

Oceans rising. Swallowing up more and more of Earth's land surface.

Too, too many people. Exceeding Earth's near and long term carrying capacity.

Food shortages. Many, many people in the world without any food.

Water shortages. Many, many people in the world without drinkable water.

Terrible crimes. Fear of not surviving drives more and more people to crimes of desperation.

Extinction. More and more creatures going extinct every day. Humans ever nearer to early extinction.

Great damage to Earth. Every day the damage to Earth grows greater. Nearer to point of no return.

The shadows grow larger and darker every day.

Chaos without any sign of hope.

Alone, a child cowers in the shadows. Family lost. Ever fearful of not surviving another day. Losing hope.

This story is about a being, a girl, being unselfish.

About what happens when, even in face of great fear of not surviving, a being is unselfish.



Being Unselfish

Unselfish Path to Surviving and Thriving



by

Gary “Chris” Christopherson
Founder, Thrivism[®], *Thrive!*[®], Thrive Endeavor[®]
Sculptor, Thrive! Sculpture by GChris

Nelson, WI

University Park, MD

Dedication

*People who are unselfish.
People who stop being selfish.*

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

*People who help prevent early
extinction of humans and all other
creatures and help prevent great
damage to Earth.*

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About Chris, Founder of Thrivism and *Thrive!*

Chris (Gary (Chris) Christopherson) works on building thriving future, improving health, and reducing vulnerability. At **The Thrive! Center** he founded, he develops strategy and policy for creating and managing large positive change and building a thriving future for all (*Thrive!*). **Thrivism** is latest effort to build thriving future. ThriveEndeavor.org Thrivism.world He wrote several nonfiction books, including **Unselfish – How to Survive and Thrive While Being Unselfish**, **Thrive! - Building a Thriving Future**, and **Thrivism (Thrive!) – Path to Thriving Future for All** available @ Amazon.com or ThriveEndeavor.org.

Thrive! and **Thrivism** draw on his 30+ years' experience creating, managing and sustaining large positive change at national and local levels in public and private sectors. He founded **HealthePeople** (building healthy and thriving future; HealthePeople.com), **Thrive Endeavor** (creating large positive change) and **Vulnerable** (minimizing vulnerability).

He served as senior leader, manager, and policymaker responsible for multi-billion dollar policy, programs and budgets and thousands of employees. 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, Department of Defense; Senior Fellow, National Academy of Public Administration; Senior Advisor to Chief Operating Officer and Deputy Director for Quality Improvement Group, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, DHHS; Senior Advisor to Under Secretary, Veterans Health Administration, VA; Senior Fellow, Institute of Medicine, National Academy of Sciences; Chief Information Officer, Veterans Health Administration, VA; Director of Health Legislation, House Select Committee on Aging, U.S. House of Representatives; and Deputy Director, Municipal Health Services Program (funded by The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation; based at John Hopkins Medical Institutions).

He is a sculptor of abstract art, over 200 mobile and stabile sculptures. GChris Sculpture at GChris.com. He wrote science fiction books, including **Being Unselfish**, **black box** and **The Thrive! Endeavor** and illustrated children's books, including **Angel, Thriving Creator of Artful Things**. All are available via Amazon.com or GChris.com.

He received his bachelor's in political science and his master's in urban and regional planning from the University of Wisconsin – Madison. He did doctoral work in health policy and management at John Hopkins University School of Public Health.

Meaning of Book Title

Being Unselfish – The act of being unselfish.

Being Unselfish – A being who is unselfish.

Author's Definition of Unselfish

unselfish – Human being (one or more) behavior is not only not selfish but is kind to and caring for others (other human beings, other creatures, Earth). A human being (one or more) changes behavior to stop being selfish and to start being kind to and caring for others (other human beings, other creatures, Earth). Unselfish human being behavior is essential to building and achieving a surviving and thriving future for all.

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Prologue. Being Unselfish

Chaos!

Selfish. Human beings being selfish threatens all.

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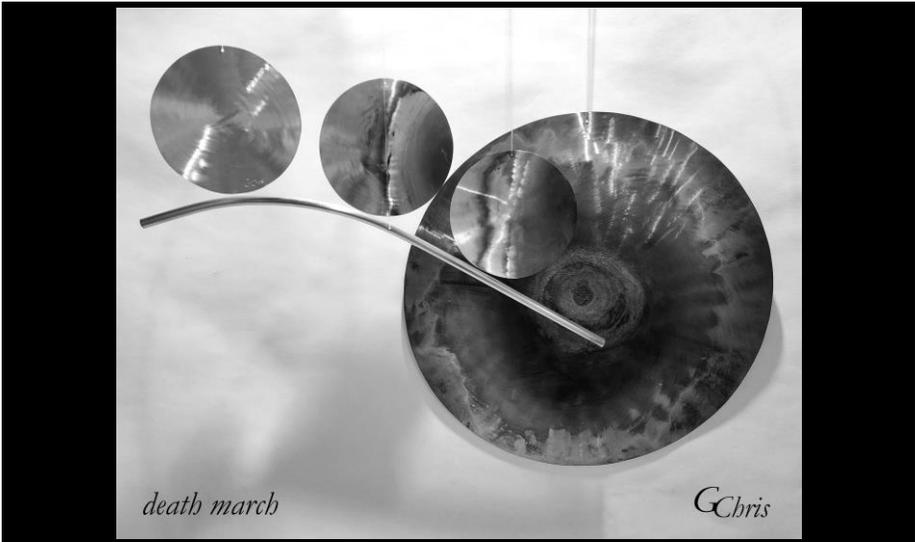
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death march

2' x 2', metal mobile

By our own actions, we humans have put ourselves on a death march. Failing to stop being selfish. Failing to build a thriving future and avoid early extinction, humans continue their death march. Early extinction for humans and many other creatures. Great damage to Earth. A tragic but avoidable end.



Chapter 1. Child Being and World Without Hope.

A world without hope. We were warned. So many times, we were warned. So many voices warned us. Did we listen? No. Did we change our behavior? No. We just continued to be selfish, shortsighted, and stupid. And now, the beginning of the end. Early extinction for humans and many other creatures. Even greater damage to Earth. It did not have to happen. It should not happen. But it is. The death march for humans and many other creatures. Great, great damage to our home, Earth. The end is coming quickly. Unless

Chaos all around Taj. Severe wind and rain storms. Flooding near the rivers, lakes, and oceans. Human beings being shot, even in schools. Buildings burned. Stores being looted for anything and everything. Homes broken into and ransacked for food and water.

Taj is asleep in her bedroom. Suddenly, she hears crashing of the front door. Crashing of furniture. She hears shouts. Angry intruders. Scared parents. Then shots ring out.

Then only the voices of the intruders.

Taj grabs her backpack, packed for the family's planned escape tomorrow. Now there is no tomorrow. Taj slips out her window, onto the rear porch roof, and huddles silently in the shadows. A child without hope.



on razor's edge

3' x 3', metal mobile

We are poised on razor's edge. Amidst destruction caused by humans, we are engaged in struggle for future of humans, many other creatures, and Earth and universe. Sitting on a razor's edge, we must and can save ourselves, many other creatures, and Earth and universe via building a thriving future for all forever.

It seems like eternity, but it has only been a day.

Her parents both gone. Lost in a senseless crime. Lost because they still had a small amount of food and water. Their killers may have had none.

Matters little why. Matters that her parents are gone forever. Matters that she is all alone.

She is alone in a dark shadow. Hoping not to be seen. Not to be found. Not to be hurt.

Taj sobs. Her face buried in her jacket. She continues to sob, but as quietly as she can. She must stop. She does not want anyone to hear her. Not want anyone to find her. Not want anyone to hurt her.

Her only good fortune is that she had a small amount of food and water. Food and water she snuck out of their house after her parents were killed. After the killers ransacked the house for food and water. Fortunately, she had a small stash hidden in her room. Her backpack had been filled in preparation for her family's planned escape.

Quietly, she had snuck back into to her room. Quietly in case the killers were still there or might return. Very quietly. Very quietly, she went back out the bedroom window, onto the porch roof, down the tree next to the rear porch, and slipped out into the back yard. Very quietly, she ran far, far away from her home. From the only life she knew.

Her food and water supplies are small. Maybe only enough for a week. But she is thankful for that. She knows others have even less.

Her only thought is to survive. No thought of thriving. Those days are gone. Hope is gone.

Under the porch of a large house, she finds a hiding place in a dark shadow.

Taj is so very, very scared. She continues to sob quietly.

She is so very, very tired. She falls asleep. Alone in the very dark shadow.

Morning comes. The dim morning light is just enough to waken her. She is still huddled within the dark shadow. Her only comfort.

But now she must act.

Taj hears a voice. Sounds like another child. Maybe a boy. She is not sure.

She wants to peek out. But she is still scared. Not sure if this child is a friend or an enemy.

She continues to listen. Hoping for some clue as to friend or enemy.

Then she realizes that the child is whispering. It is a boy whispering to himself. He is crying. But he too is trying to be quiet. Not to be heard.

It sounds like he too is alone. Lost. Scared. Just like her.

What should she do? Right now, she is somewhat safe. He does not seem to know she is hidden in the dark shadow. No one else has found her. She does not hear any other voices. But as the sun rises around her, she fears that others will come. Others who may harm her. Others who might harm the boy.

“Think Taj. Are you better off trying to survive on your own? Or are you better off trying to survive with a friend? If he would be a friend.”

She listens more carefully to what the boy is whispering. Important words by the boy. No family. Alone. Scared. Thirsty. Hungry.

Hungry. Thirsty. Those may be the keys. Maybe this is her moment to be unselfish. Maybe being unselfish is how to make a friend. All she has to do is to share a small portion of her small stash of food and water. Maybe that is all she has to do to make a friend.

She really, really needs a friend. She wants a friend. She does not want to be alone. She has never been alone.



stop selfish

3' x 2', metal mobile

To achieve thriving future for all and avoid very bad future, humans must stop being selfish immediately. Care about and for all humans, all other creatures and Earth. By stopping being selfish, humans are very likely stopping being shortsighted and stopping being and acting stupid. Best path to thriving future for all humans, all other creatures and Earth.



Chapter 2. Child, With Hope. Being Unselfish.

Taj peeks out from the dark shadow. Not enough to be seen but enough to see the boy.

She sees him. He does not see her yet. He appears to be about her age. She is 15.

She is still very scared but needs to know more. She peeks out just a bit more. She wants to see if he is alone. She wants to see if there are others nearby.

He is alone. She sees no one else.

Now the moment of need overcoming fear. Now the moment to speak to the boy. To speak to him without scaring him away.

Taj whispers, "Hello?" More of a question.

The boy turns toward Taj. Looks really scared. Moves like he might run away. But then he pauses. Looks again toward Taj.

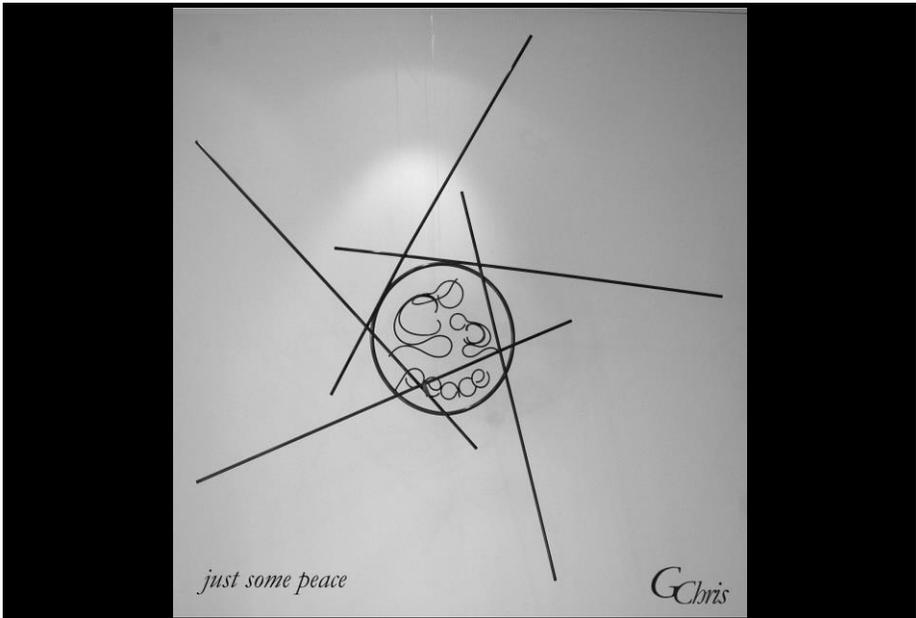
Just as she did, he is trying to figure out if she is friend or enemy. Since Taj is still mostly hidden in the dark shadow, he cannot be sure. The only thing he is pretty sure of is the voice is that of a girl, probably girl near his age.

"Hello?", he says back uneasily. He is still ready to run away.

Taj decides to take a chance. She comes a bit more out of the dark shadow. She can see him more clearly. He can see her more clearly.

He sees an attractive girl. Slender but not thin. Light colored hair. Dressed in a shirt and blue jeans. Close to his age. He just turned 16 three weeks ago. No birthday party. Celebrating birthdays is no longer done. He had thought that meeting up with good-looking girls might no longer be done.

Miguel looks down and says to himself, "Focus Miguel. Focus. Anyone could be a threat."



just some peace

4' x 4', metal mobile

With parent and child caught in the middle of war comes the parent and child's sorrowful plea, a cry for "just some peace in this world and for them."

Miguel moves closer to Taj.

They both quickly realize they probably have little to fear from each other. They see that both are teenagers. Both are pretty scared. Both appear to be alone.

Taj speaks first. "Hi, my name is Taj."

With some hesitancy, he answers back, "Hi. My name is Miguel."

Taj takes a much closer look at Miguel. Yes, about her age. A good looking boy. Dark hair. Probably a high school athlete. She could even like him.

Stop. This is not the time or place to be thinking about "boys".

They are still wary of each other. Each seems to want to reach out to the other.

“Miguel, you should get under cover. Come here if you want. I will not hurt you. Definitely not hurt you.”

“Even as the sun rises, the dark shadow hiding me will hide us both for now.”

Miguel looks around. Afraid others will come. Afraid others will come to hurt him.

He is so hungry. So thirsty. He wonders if she might have any food or water to share.

Again, he moves cautiously toward her.

Taj slides back into the comfort of the dark shadow. Miguel joins her. Still keeping some distance. Both now in the dark shadow.

Taj is still hiding her food and water. She does not have a large stash. And she is still not completely sure about Miguel’s intentions. But she is pretty sure he is hungry and thirsty.

Taj thinks to herself. “We both need to survive. We both have a better chance together. Maybe there is finally a reason to hope.”

“This may be the moment for me to be unselfish. To share some of what I have to share.”

She decides to be unselfish.

“Miguel, are you hungry or thirsty?” she asks softly.

He nods yes. Then responds, his head down, “Yes, I have not had any food or water for two days. Not since my family disappeared.”

“I think they may not have survived the devastating storm two days ago. I was at school when severe storm winds and rain hit. It damaged my school. Worse, it wiped out my family’s home. My home is gone.”

“When I went to my house, I saw it had collapsed. I believe my family is in the destroyed house. Dead.”

“My family is gone.”

They both cry, briefly holding each other.

Recovering a bit, Taj pulls out her backpack and starts to take out some food and water.

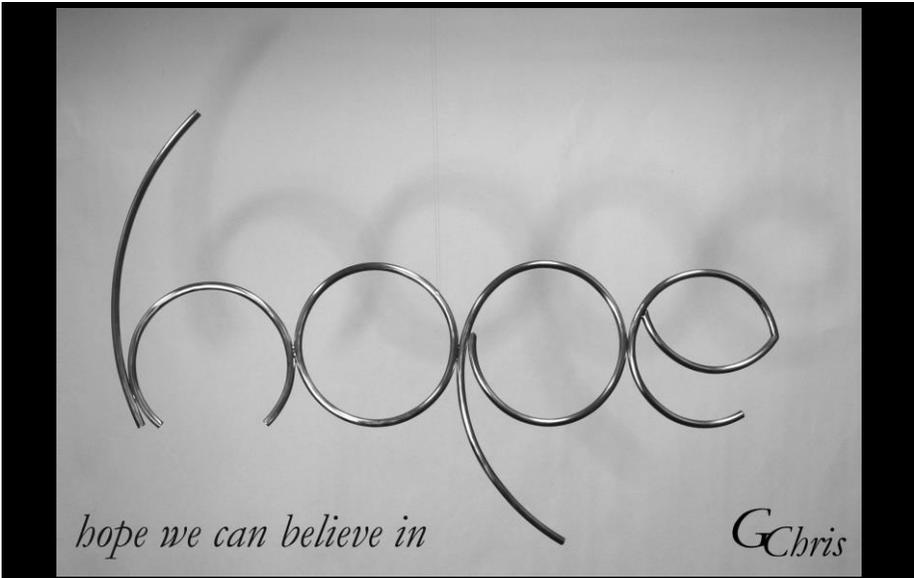
She cautions, “I do not have a lot to share. But I have some. Some I was able to sneak out of our house before I ran away.”

“I also lost my parents when very bad people broke into our home. They killed my parents and ransacked our home for food and water. They took all the food and water, except what I have in my backpack.”

Chapter 3. Child, Unselfish Being, Gives Hope

Silently, Taj and Miguel eat small amounts of food and drink small amounts of water. They both realize that this must last them until they can find more. They realize that others may also be in need.

Sitting deep in the dark shadow, they look at each other. In a comforting way, they realize how fortunate they are to have found each other.



hope we can believe in
2' x 3', metal mobile
Celebrates the hope that we can believe in.

Taj sits up. Sees how the day is progressing and that night is only several hours away. They have to make sure they have a safe place to spend the night.

“My house is not an option,” cautions Miguel. “It is totally destroyed. I believe my family still lies there. At some point, if I can, I would like to be sure. If they are there, I want to lay them to rest. Given the chaos, I am not sure if or when I can do that.”

Taj hugs him softly and consoles, “Miguel, if you do, I will help you as best I can.”

“My house might be an option for a night or two. It has already been ransacked, probably more than once. The bad human beings may believe there is nothing left to ransack. But my parents likely still lie there as well.”

“Like you, I would like to lay them to rest. To give them and me some peace.”

“It may be possible, with your help, to bury them at night in the back yard. The back yard is pretty well hidden from the road and from any neighboring houses.”

“If you want to do that, I will help,” responds Miguel. “Maybe you know a safe spot in the house for us to hide.”

“I do,” says Taj. “There is a protected space in the basement in which we can hide for a few days.”

“I doubt there will be any food or water left. Best if we can find some on the way.”

“Maybe we should spend one more night here. Leave before daybreak tomorrow.”

Miguel nods in agreement.

A voice nearby. Maybe two voices.

Taj holds her finger to her lips signaling they must be quiet. She signals that she will peek outside to see who might be out there.

Taj slowly leans forward. Peers outside. Scans left and right.

Just about a half block away, she sees an elderly couple. They look very scared. Holding each other closely.

They appear frozen in place. Unable to move. Unable to decide what to do next. What might be safe.

They look hungry and thirsty.

If they do not get out of sight quickly, they will not survive.

Miguel also looks out briefly and sees the couple.

Taj and Miguel look in each other's eyes. This is the moment they feared. This is the moment of the great decision. This is the moment that will live with them for the rest of their lives.

Save the couple or only save themselves. Will their next act be a selfish act of self-survival? Or will their next act be an unselfish act that goes beyond their own survival?

Will they give hope both to themselves and to the couple?

They have to decide now if the elderly couple is to have a chance. To have any hope.

Taj and Miguel reach down deep into their very being. Looking into each other's eyes, they nod yes.



Chapter 4. Children, Unselfish Beings, Give Hope.

Taj peeks out again. The elderly couple are still frozen in place.

Very carefully, Taj leans out of the dark shadow. She puts out her hand. She signals to the elderly couple to come.

They do not see her. Not sure they are seeing anyone or anything other than each other.

Taj tries again. Leans out further. A bit more visible signal for the elderly couple to come to Taj. This time, one of them sees Taj. It is a white haired woman that sees Taj. But the first reaction is fear. She clutches her partner even harder and closer.

Then she whispers something to her partner, an elderly man. They both turn toward Taj. Still, they do not move.

They whisper again. Clearly, they are weighing the fear of Taj against the fear of standing out in the open. Fully exposed. Fully in danger.

Looking around them, they appear to have decided that Taj is the lesser being to fear. If only the lesser of evils.

They nod yes to Taj. Slowly they start toward Taj. Each step they take is a careful, measured step.

A noise.

Taj retreats into the dark shadow. The elderly couple again freezes.

No further sound.

Taj again leans forward and signals again.

The elderly couple moves closer. Slowly reaching Taj. Then they see Miguel hiding in the dark shadow. They freeze again. But they are still exposed. Now they have also placed Taj and Miguel in danger.

Seeing Taj's kind face, they feel more assured.

They join Taj and Miguel in the relative safety of the dark shadow.

Taj and Miguel both give the elderly a comforting smile. They reach over to embrace the elderly couple.

The elderly couple almost collapses in relief. They return the embrace.

All four of them are relatively safe for the moment. Relatively safe in the dark shadow. For the moment.

Taj introduces herself, "Hi, I'm Taj. This is my new friend Miguel."

"Who are you?"

The elderly couple does not quickly respond. They seem hesitant to give their names.

Brief silence as the four human beings measure each other.

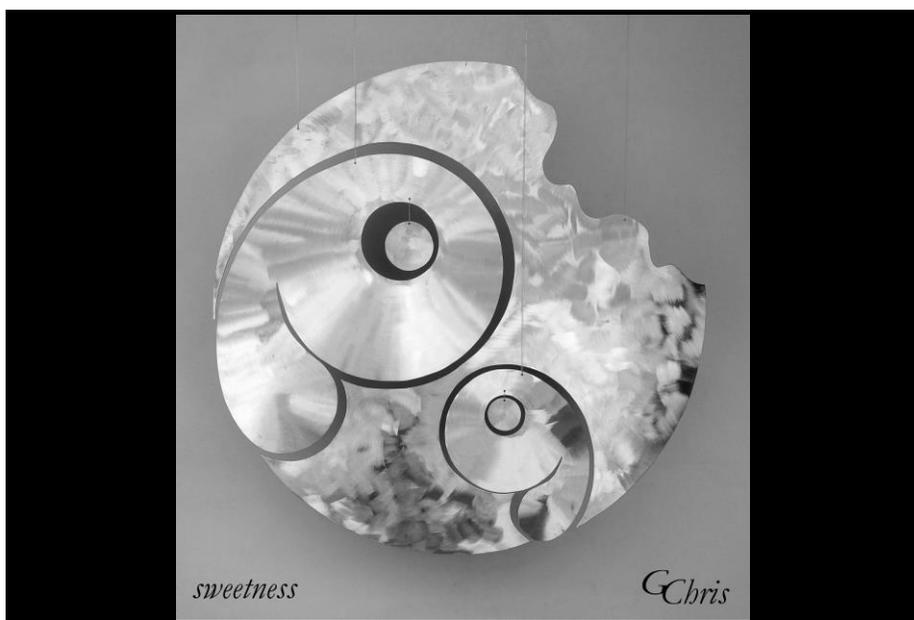
Taj notices that they do not use names when talking, even to each other. They always address one another as "sweetie". A sign of affection. An alternative to using their names.

One of the sweeties, the woman, finally responds back, "We also just met and do not know a lot about each other. We are just learning to trust each other. But we appear to have a special connection. That is why we just call each other sweetie. It works for us. We hope it might work for the two of you."

"We are deeply grateful for what you did. For the risk you took for two total strangers. We suspect that we were only minutes away from something very bad happening to us."

"Over the past two days together, we have been able to avoid several bad human beings. One man in particular. We have only seen him from a distance. He has yet to see us. Or so we think."

"From what we have seen, something is very wrong with him. Something very bad. We must all be very careful as we just saw him again about an hour ago. On this road."



sweetness

3' x 3', metal mobile

Challenges all of us to celebrate and nurture the sweetness, with a bit of whimsy, in all creatures.

The other sweetie, the elderly man, finally speaks, “We both lost all of our families in the past several days. Lost to human violence.”

Now Taj and Miguel understand how much they have in common with the two sweeties.

Taj shares her story, “Just like you, Miguel and I have lost our families. Lost our homes. Mine to violence. Miguel’s to the storms. All are gone.”

“Like the two of you, we are very fortunate to have found each other. We are also just getting to know one another. We have come to trust one another. An important start.”

The elderly man bows his head suggesting despair, “We lost our families. We also lost all our food and water. Our last food and water were yesterday morning.”

Taj realizes that only she has any food and water. Not a lot but at least some.

“Listen, we do not have very much food and water, but we have some. Some I was able to rescue from my house after my parents were killed.”

“Though we have to use this food and water sparingly, I see how hungry and thirsty you are. Let me get some out of my backpack. Some to share.”

Taj goes back into the corner of the dark shadow and reaches into her backpack. She retrieves a bottle of water and a small amount of food. Passes it to the two sweeties for them to share.

Great relief on the faces of the two sweeties. Realizing how precious is food and water, they share it slowly. They savor the first food and water they have had for over a day. A little color returns to their faces. Even a little smile.

All four of them lean back deeper into the dark shadow. Uncertain of what will happen next. Fearful of what might happen next.

A voice. A loud, angry voice.



Chapter 5. Under Attack By Selfish Being

A very loud angry voice. Less than a hundred feet away is Taj's guess.

The elderly woman sweetie whispers, "It is him. The angry, bad man."

Unclear if the angry man knows where they are. He seems to be running back and forth looking for the elderly couple.

He shouts, "Come out. Come out."

"I know you are here somewhere. Do not worry. I will not hurt you. I just want a little of your food and water. Share some of what you have. Then I will leave you. Unharmed. Go on my way. You have my word."

Somehow, he does not sound at all sincere. Just a ploy to get them out in the open. He does not appear to know about Taj and Miguel. Only the two sweeties.

More angry shouts. More and more the shouts turn to threats. Clearly this about more than just food and water. Clearly, this is about doing harm to the two sweeties.

The four of them remain deep in the dark shadow.

The angry man seems to move away. Still his angry voice and his angry threats are heard.

The elderly couple are quaking. Fear has returned to their faces.

All four of them understand that the elderly couple's presence presents a threat the two sweeties but also to Taj and Miguel.

The two sweeties are whispering to each other. It appears they are considering leaving. Considering it as the best way to protect Taj and Miguel. Considering how unselfish Taj and Miguel have been. Especially Taj.

Taj and Miguel are also whispering. They realize what the two sweeties are probably considering. Probably likely to do.

Taj and Miguel know this is the biggest and hardest decision of their lives. A decision that could end their lives. Looking into each other's eyes and holding hands, they gently nod yes.

Taj turns to the two sweeties, "We suspect that you two are considering leaving the dark shadow. Leaving as a way to protect us from the angry man. Do not. For whatever reason, we four have found each other. We four need to act in the unselfish interest of all four of us."

The two sweeties start to disagree but stop. They realize that they are receiving a gift. An unselfish act by two young human beings. Two young human beings what have lost everything but can still find the courage to help two strangers.

The elderly woman sweetie reaches out to Taj and Miguel, "Thank you. Thank you. You two are extraordinarily kind. Especially for your young ages."

"We never met your families, but they must have been very special to have two very special children."

"Again, thank you."

Both of the two sweeties reach over and embrace Taj and Miguel.

A loud noise just outside the dark shadow.

A face peers in. A very angry, threatening face.

The angry man has found them all.

"What a treasure I have found," spouts the angry man. "Not just two old, worthless human beings, but two young, worthless ones as well."

It is clear that this man is not just angry but is psychotic. He rambles on about all the bad things done to him and all the bad things done to his family. But then it gets really scary. It is clear that he blames all human beings. He wants vengeance against any and all human beings. He is exacting vengeance against any and all human beings.



don't hurt anymore

2' x 2', metal mobile

Challenges us all to bring an end to violence, with the call we "don't want you to hurt anymore."

"All of you and I mean all of you are to blame", he shouts angrily.
"All of you will pay the price."

He sees the food wrappings and the water bottles. Then he sees Taj's backpack. He suspects it still contains food and water.

He laughs, in a threatening way, "This is my lucky day. Once I dispose of the four of you, the backpack of food and water will be mine."

Then for the first time, they see the knife on the angry man's belt. From the discoloration on the blade, they understand they would not be his first victims.

The angry man pulls his knife. He makes his move first toward the elderly couple. Taj and Miguel both leap forward to try to protect the two sweeties. They are knocked back.

The angry man strikes at the elderly man. Slashes his arm just above the wrist. Blood.

Not giving up, Taj and Miguel once again lunge forward to protect the two sweeties.

The angry man is poised to strike again.

Suddenly, he stops. Frozen in time and space.



Chapter 6. Rescue By Two Unselfish Beings

The angry man falls forward. Lands on the two sweeties.

Motionless.

Then a new voice. A comforting voice.

“Are you alright?”

“Are any of you hurt?”

“Yes. Sweetie has been cut. He is bleeding,” responds Taj.

Taj checks the elderly man. Rips a strip of cloth from her shirt and wraps the wound. The bleeding stops. Good news that the cut was not very deep.

“Looks like he will be okay. Are you sure the rest of you are okay,” asks one of the two women who just knocked the angry man unconscious.

Taj, Miguel, and the elderly sweeties nod yes.

The other woman rescuer leans into the dark shadow, “We have a small amount of rope. Help us tie the angry man’s hands and feet.”

Miguel moves over to the unconscious attacker and helps tie him up. Taj moves over to the two sweeties to make sure they are truly okay.

The two sweeties are just very scared. Very, very scared. The knife blade may have only cut enough to cause bleeding, but it was only inches away from ending their lives.

Having secured the attacker, the first woman rescuer introduces herself, “My name is Mira.”

Mira is an attractive woman. Maybe about 5’ 5”. Slender athletic build. Black hair. Light skin. Probably in her early 30s. Probably with family roots going back to some part of Asia.



thrivist helps all

3' x 3', wood and metal mobile

A Thrivist helps all build and sustain a thriving future with and for all – each person, all people, all other creatures and Earth.

“This is my partner Amara.”

Amara is a taller woman. Maybe about 5’ 10”. Athletic build. Brown hair. Dark skin. Probably in her late 20s. Probably with family roots going back to Africa.

Amara leans over and says, “Mira and I saw your attacker yesterday. But he was far away. Before we could get to him, he killed a whole family. After killing them, he stole what little food and water they still had.”

“But that was not enough. He continued his rampage. Another family were also killed by him. Such madness.”

Mira continues, “We finally caught up with him today. Just as he spotted one of you in the dark shadow. Just as he ran toward you. Threatening you. Preparing to kill you.”

“This when we jumped in. No way were we going to let this mad man kill any more human beings.”

“While we could not bring ourselves to kill him, we made sure he would not kill any of you.”

“Though there is little public authority left, we did see what appears to be some sort of police patrolling nearby.”

Amara laid out the plan, “Let’s drag him out into the open. The patrol should find him shortly and do whatever the patrol will do. We will pin a note on him telling the story of at least two families he killed.”

“But we then must get far, far away. As quickly as we can.”

Taj responded, “Thank you both. Without your unselfish act, we would be dead. Miguel and I were trying to stop him from hurting our two new friends. They refer to each other as ‘sweetie’. Not sure Miguel and I could have stopped him.”

“While we would like very much to go with you, Miguel and I have to take care of our families first. Both our families were killed. Both families should be laid to rest.”

Miguel joined in, “We want to take care of Taj’s family for sure. It may be too late for my family. But I would like to at least say goodbye.”

“It may be best for you to just take the two sweeties with you. Taj and I will do what we need to do.”

Mira quickly chimes in, “I do not think so. If we move quickly, we can take care of both your families. Quicker if we do this together. Safer as well.”

“You two were unselfishly helping the two sweeties. It is time for us to help you two. We can help the two sweeties at the same time.”

“Once we take care of your two families, we will go to a small nearby community. A safe community. A safe community of unselfish human beings.”

Taj expresses surprise, “There is still a safe community? Still a community of unselfish human beings helping each other to be safe. I worried that no safe community still existed.”

Amara reaches out to Taj, “Taj, let me assure you that at least one safe community still exists. Still full of unselfish human beings. If we hurry, we might even be there before the day ends.”

But for Taj, it the selfish act of this one angry man that sticks with her, she thinks to herself, “I do not get it. He could have just asked for some food and water. I would have shared. We did not have much. But I would have shared. Why was he so selfish? All he had to do was ask. Just ask.”

Before they leave, they place the tied up angry man out in the open. By now, he is fully conscious and raging. He quickly realizes that his captors are leaving. And they are leaving him behind to whatever justice lies ahead. He realizes what that means. Unless a patrol picks him up, he is unlikely to survive the day. If he is picked up by a patrol, his fate might be the same.

Moving with great care, Taj guides the group back to her house. All the neighboring houses they pass now seem abandoned. They encounter nobody. Their best hope.

But what lies ahead for Taj will be horrific. Her murdered family.

They approach Taj’s house carefully. Mira and Amara go around the house just to make sure nobody is in or around the house. They find no one.

The fateful moment arrives. Taj leads them through the broken front door into her house. Broken objects and furniture are scattered all around.

Taj leads them to the living room. That is where she heard her parents screaming. Where she heard the fatal gun shots.

She screams. Falls to the floor in agony.

There are her mother and father. Dead. On the floor. Surrounded by their joined blood.

Miguel pulls Taj next to him. Tries to console the inconsolable Taj. All he can do is hold her.

Mira and Amara, with the help of the elderly couple, wrap Taj's parents in blankets they found upstairs. With great care, they take them out into the back yard.

Mira goes to the garage and finds shovels to dig the graves.

Having recovered with Miguel's help, Taj comes out into the back yard. Kneels down beside her parents. Whispers her final thoughts to each of them.

The graves are dug. Taj's parents are buried.

Taj shares her final words to her parents and to her newfound friends, "My parents cared for me deeply. Even as their lives were ending, their shouts gave me enough warning to save myself. For that, I am eternally grateful. I wish I could return that favor."

"I truly hope that wherever they are, they are together. They are happy. They know I survived and am now helping others. Farewell to those who loved me most."

Miguel embraces Taj. The two sweeties embrace Taj and Miguel. Mira and Amara embrace them all.

They did not mark the graves. Did their best to hide any indication there were graves. The final tragedy would be for her parents to fall prey to grave robbers.

But now they have one more mission. To go with Miguel to his home. To do what they could for Miguel and for his lost family.

They leave Taj's home. They work their way to Miguel's destroyed home and his family.

Still daytime, they reach Miguel's home. His whole neighborhood was destroyed by the devastating storm of a few days ago. None of the neighboring homes still stood. Were recognizable as houses.

Miguel took them to the remnants of his home. He shook his head in disbelief. So much destruction. Nothing of his home was standing. Inside somewhere were his parents and his little sister. But where?

There was no basement. No room to shelter in. No place in which they could survive. They assuredly did not survive.

They all start searching through the debris. Searching for any sign of his parents or sister. The layers of debris make the search almost impossible.

Then they see Taj stand up. She points down.

Miguel rushes over to what had been their kitchen. He looks down into the debris. He sees a tiny hand. Motionless.

Together, they carefully remove the debris covering his sister. Then they see she is not alone. Holding her, for what were the final moments of their lives, were the parents. None of Miguel's family survived the storm.

Miguel drops to his knees sobbing. "They are all gone. I am all alone."

Taj embraces him. The rest join with her in trying to comfort Miguel.

For what seemed like hours, they all were frozen in time and space. Trying to comfort their new friend.

But it was only a few minutes. They had no time. They need to do what Miguel needed them to do. To help him lay his family to rest.

They had brought the shovels from Taj's house. Taj asked Miguel where he would like to lay them to rest. Tearfully, he pointed to a far back corner of the yard, in the shadow of several trees.

Quietly, they laid Miguel's family to rest.

Miguel expresses his loss, "My family had roots going back to the days before Mexico was even a nation. Much of that family history has been lost. My family has been lost."

"Before I lost them, they taught me much about my heritage. Much for me to be proud of. But I am most proud to have been their son. To have been my sister's brother. I owe them so much. I will carry that forward in the unselfish acts I have yet to do."

“Today, I am most fortunate. For I have new friends. The beginning of a new family. I am most thankful for Taj. She reached out of the dark shadow. And with her hand and unselfish heart, saved me.”

Mira spoke up, “I am so sorry. But we must go now. There is still much danger around us.”

“We have some distance to go. To go to the community of which Amara and I spoke. To a safe community of unselfish beings.”

And so, with heavy hearts but with hope, they begin their next journey.

After an hour travel, Mira turns back to the group to give some assurance, “We are doing well. We are about halfway to the community to which we are taking you. Try to keep together.”

Then manic screaming. Suddenly, a man and a woman charge out from the side of one of the houses. The man has a piece of steel pipe. The woman has a crowbar. They charge. Suddenly they are attacking the elderly woman. She had fallen back several feet behind the group. Hit hard several times, she falls to the ground. Her head bounces off the concrete road. She bleeds profusely from her head.

The elderly man runs to his partner. Mira, Amara, Taj, and Miguel rush to protect the elderly couple. They grab the attacking couple before they can hurt the elderly man. They wrestle away the pipe and crowbar. Taj and Amara knock down and knock out the attacking man. Miguel and Mira do the same for the attacking woman.

Then they all focus on the elderly woman. She is not breathing. The damage to her head was too severe for her to survive. She is gone.

They all embrace the elderly man. He has lost his sweetie.

Miguel goes into an open garage and finds more rope.

Before the attacking couple regains consciousness, Miguel and Amara quickly tie them up.

Knowing they cannot stay here for long, they move the attacking couple, still bound, to the side of the road. Leaving them to be found by whomever finds them. To have done to them whatever gets done to them.

Then they turn to the elderly couple. To laying to rest the fallen elderly woman.

They see a small open space just ahead. Trees shade a small area to the back.

Miguel spots an open garage. He finds a couple of shovels and brings them to the open space.

Together, they prepare the shallow grave.

They go back to retrieve the elderly woman's body. Go back to comfort the elderly man. They bring the two sweeties to the freshly dug grave. They lower the elderly woman into the grave and cover her gently.

But now they turn to the living. The elderly man sweetie. They do their best to console him. But there is no consoling. She was the last love of his life. His last sweetie. He leans over the grave and whispers his last words to her.

Taj and Miguel cover the grave with brush to obscure the grave site. No grave marker. They hope that no one finds the grave. No one robs the grave.

Just leave the elderly sweetie woman in peace.

Gently, they lead the elderly man sweetie away.

They must move on quickly. They have lost a couple of hours. Already dusk. They will not have enough time to get to the safe community.

They will have to find a safe place close by to spend the night.

They decide that the garage found by Miguel is their best option.

So, they all move into the garage. Miguel closes the garage door. Being as tired as they are, they all quickly find a place to rest. The elderly man asks to be alone on a blanket he found. Mira and Amara are together, seated up against one wall. Taj and Miguel together against another wall, holding each other tightly.

Before falling asleep, Taj thinks back to the cruel attack by the couple. The killing of the elderly sweetie woman.

“Why did they attack? Why commit such a selfish act? There was almost nothing to be gained. Why? Why? Why?”

They all sleep.

For a few hours, they are left alone. They rest. Ready for what comes tomorrow.



Chapter 7. Journey to Community of Unselfish Beings

So many selfish beings. So much selfishness. That seems to be what the world is experiencing. Selfishness. Causes so many deaths to human beings. So much many deaths to other creatures. So much damage to Earth. Being selfish is what is pushing the world to a very, very bad end.

Yes, there are still beings being unselfish. Taj and Miguel are unselfish. The elderly sweeties were unselfish, especially to each other. Mira and Amara are clearly unselfish as they risked their own lives to save the lives of Taj and Miguel and, as best they could, the elderly sweeties.

A bit of early daylight shines through the garage door. Taj wakens first. Then the rest waken.

They go over to the elderly man. He seems okay. So much was asked of him yesterday. So much was taken from him yesterday. He still shows great sadness. Great loss.

But they must get moving. Not knowing what threats lie between here and the safe community of unselfish human beings, they cannot afford to waste any time.

Taj shares the last of her food and water with the rest. There was not much left. They ration it evenly amongst the five of them.

Time to leave. Miguel opens the garage door.

As they continue their journey, already there are warning signs.

Loud noises in the distance, but on their path. Glass being broken. Gun shots. Angry shouts. Screams.

Further down the road, they see buildings and cars burning. They see human beings beating on other human beings.

So much selfish behavior. So much destructive behavior.

Taj, recognizing what lies ahead, cautions, “Our path will not be a straight one. We will have to do much zigzagging to avoid running into human beings who will do us harm.”

Amara agrees, “Right Taj. We know some alternative routes that should reduce the risk of going into harm’s way. There are side roads we can use. We can cut through fields and forests.”

“But sometimes, we will just have to stop, stay hidden, and wait for the threat to go away.”

Mira nods in agreement, “Key is for us to stay tightly together. If Amara or I signal a stop or direction change, do not hesitate. Follow it to the letter. Follow it quickly.”

“We are not that far away from the safe community. But there is much danger between us and that community.”

Taj’s group continues their journey. With great caution. With fear.

As they round a corner, they spot a small crowd of about a dozen human beings in the road ahead. Still a good distance away.

Mira signals for all of them to move quickly and silently into the bushes along the road. They do. They are hidden for the moment.

But their path is blocked. Blocked by this group of threatening human beings. Mira can see them moving from side to side of the road. Ransacking houses and cars. Threatening or beating any other human beings they encounter.

More selfish human beings. Not what Taj and the group need right now

Great danger.

Then that group turns around and starts back in the direction of Taj’s group.

Mira recognizes the urgent need for them to get away. Their hiding spot will not protect them.



persevere

2' x 2', metal mobile

Surviving through chaos, persevere in pursuit of a surviving and thriving future for all.

The selfish human beings come ever closer. Only a couple hundred feet away.

Just as Mira was about to move their group, another group of voices. Another group of threatening human beings.

The first group turns to face the new group. Things are about to get very ugly. Very deadly.

The two groups rush each other. Brandishing various weapons.

They start beating on each other. Guns are fired. Bodies on the roadway. More beating. More gun shots. More bodies fall. Few are still left standing. Few are still conscious or alive.

Then it all stops. What little is left of both groups disperse. Many bodies still lie on the roadway. Selfishness and fear are driving them all away. Driving them to leave fallen group members behind.

Now silence. None of the two groups still in the roadway are moving. Then a couple of human beings rise. They stare at each other. They also run away.

Now it appears that no one left is alive.

Now silence. No further movement.

Taj and Mira slowly peer out. Partially emerge from the bushes. They keep scanning the fallen bodies for any sign of movement. Any sign of life.

Minutes pass. No movement. No sign of life.

Amara steps out. She signals that she alone will go up to the group. See if it is safe for them to proceed.

At the same time, Mira is checking the next road over as a backup. A backup if they cannot proceed here. The next road will take them out of their way. Not Mira's first choice.

Amara reaches the fallen human beings. She checks each to see if any threat remains. She signals. No threat there. Then she scans for some distance. See if any threat remains from the living remnants of the two groups.

She sees none. She signals back to Taj. Come forward.

Taj's group proceeds down the road. Mira returns and joins them.

Amara serves as advance scout as they proceed very slowly and cautiously up the road.

As the road seems clear, Amara rejoins Taj's group.

For now, the threat has passed. The elderly man sweetie seems to have recovered just a bit. Mira and Amara are together. Holding hands. Same for Taj and Miguel. They have grown closer. Periodic hugs. Holding hands.

Taj's group continues their journey to the community of unselfish human beings.

Still fearful. Nearly exhausted. But more hopeful.



Chapter 8. Joining a Community of Unselfish Beings

Hope that any community remains that is made up of unselfish beings. Human beings who are kind. Who share what they have, even if it is not much. Especially if it is not much.

So few unselfish beings. So little unselfishness. That seems to be what the world is experiencing. Unselfishness can better keep human beings alive. Can better keep many other creatures alive. Can better repair the great damage to Earth. Being unselfish is what can better push the world forward to a surviving and thriving future. Can. But will it?

Mira and Amara point ahead. They smile. For the first time since Taj met them, she sees them smile.

In the distance, maybe about a half mile away, Taj sees some buildings. Another quarter mile. She sees some human beings.

Taj is uneasy. So are Miguel and the elderly sweetie. They really do not know what to expect.

Their hopes are high. But

They keep walking. Getting closer and closer to the community of which Mira and Amara speak. The safe community.

Then some people see them. They are also cautious.

Taj's group gets closer.

Then some people from the community recognize Mira and Amara. They wave enthusiastically.

For the first time, Taj sees smiles on the faces of human beings other than those of her group.

Taj smiles. Miguel smiles. The elderly sweetie smiles.
They enter the community of unselfish beings.



community

3' x 3', metal mobile

Thriving community is built and achieved when people join together as people who are not selfish, shortsighted, and stupid. That thriving community positively supports and brings together people, other creatures, and Earth. Achieves a thriving future for all.

A tall man steps forward and introduces himself, “Welcome. Welcome. My name is Joshua. I am the informal leader of this community.”

“The community calls itself ‘Unselfish’. A simple name with a simple but powerful message.”

“We are not a rich community, but we have enough to survive. On our best days, we thrive. But no matter what, we share what we have. We are unselfish beings.”

“Again, welcome.”

“We are so relieved to welcome the return of our dear friends Mira and Amara. Just days ago, we sent them out to see what they could find.”

“Apparently, from the looks on their and your faces, they were successful. They found you. They brought you here.”

“Apparently, you are also unselfish, or they would not have told you about this community. They would not have brought you here.”

Amara greets Joshua, “You are correct. Let me give special recognition to Taj, a very, very unselfish human being. She lost everything, including her whole family, and then showed herself to be totally unselfish. First, with Miguel. Then with, what we refer to, as the two sweeties.”

“Sadly, we lost one of our sweeties to some very destructive, selfish human beings.”

Taj steps forward and puts out her hand to greet Joshua.

Joshua instead puts his arms around Taj and says warmly, “Welcome Taj. It is so great to meet another unselfish being. You are most welcome in our community. And so are your friends Miguel and Sweetie.”

“I think we will just make that his name, Sweetie. Has a nice ring to it.”

The elderly man sweetie smiles and whispers, “Yes.”

“So very, very nice to meet you as well,” says Miguel as he reaches out to Joshua.”

Slowly, Sweetie comes forward and speaks to Joshua, “I am Sweetie. I like that name.”

“But I am deeply saddened over the loss of my dearest sweetie. She should not have had to lose her life the way she did. To the selfish human beings who stole her life.”

“But now we are here. Safe for the first time in a long time. Among other unselfish beings like us. Within a community named Unselfish. A community, which I suspect, lives up to its name. My deepest appreciation for your warm, caring welcome.”

Taj, finally releasing her hug of Joshua, thanks Mira and Amara and thanks the community of Unselfish, “Our deepest thanks to Mira and Amara.”

“Two totally unselfish beings who saved our lives and who brought us to Unselfish. They are two extraordinary human beings. Two who are a credit to Unselfish. A credit to themselves. And two who truly love each other and belong together.”

“I may have also found my soul mate in Miguel. We both lost so much but found each other. We still have much to learn about each other. So far, we very much like what we have found in each other.”

Miguel, comes over to Taj and puts his arms around her. As they hold each other, he gently kisses her. She, just as gently kisses him back. Their first kiss. Not their last kiss.

That night is a night of celebration. Unselfish is a small community. Only a few hundred unselfish human beings. But it is a strong community. Strong because of their common bond of being unselfish.

There is music. Dancing. Good food and water, sparingly shared.

There is much conversation as Taj’s group gets to know the human beings of Unselfish. As Unselfish gets to know Taj’s group. They fit well together.

As the night’s celebration winds down, Mira and Amara slip away to their living space. Several elderly human beings embrace Sweetie and take him to their living space.

Joshua approaches Taj and Miguel and talks with them, “Taj. Miguel. You are both just teenagers. But you have grown into adults very quickly. From what Mira and Amara tell me, you are now full adults.”

“We leave it to the two of you whether you each want your own living space or want to share a living space. We are comfortable with whichever choice you make.”

Taj responds, “Can you give us a few minutes. This is not a discussion we have had. While we have been very close for the past few nights, it is not something we have considered.”

“Take as much time as you need,” responds Joshua.

Taj takes Miguel’s hand. Together they go over to a quiet spot. A spot for them to consider this “adult” decision.

Miguel holds Taj’s hands and speaks first, “Taj, I care for you deeply. These past few days and all we have gone thorough have brought us together. Very closely together.”

“We held each other. We kissed each other. We slept next to each other. While whatever you want is fine with me, I would very much like to share living space with you. If you agree, you set the terms.”

Taj smiles and says caringly, “Very sweet. Very considerate. Very unselfish. I would expect nothing less.”

“In your heart, you already know my answer. Yes, as Joshua points out, we are pretty young to take this major of a step. To make this major of a decision. A joint decision.”

“I care deeply for you. And as much as I know what love is, I truly believe I love you. I want to be with you. I want to share living space with you. I hope we can be together for a very, very long time. Yes, I believe I love you.”

Miguel almost cries with joy and responds warmly, “Taj, while I was hesitant to say it, I truly believe I love you. We both lost so much. But we found so much in each other.”

“I want us to be together. I would love to share living space with you. I would love to share my life with you. I truly do believe I love you with all my heart.”

They hold each other tight. They kiss each other in a way they had not kissed before.



believe

3' x 3', metal mobile

Believe in and act to achieve thriving future for all. failing to do so will result in early extinction for humans and many other creatures and great damage to Earth.

After a few minutes, they return to Joshua.

He can see clearly what their answer is. He is very, very happy for them.

Without any more words being said, Joshua takes them to their new living space. Wishes them a good night. Watches them embrace. Sees them kiss.

Joshua closes the door.



Chapter 9. A Community of Unselfish Beings

Dawn breaks in Unselfish.

Amongst the earliest of risers are Taj and Miguel. Much, much happiness on their faces. Much happiness in the way they walk together. Much happiness in how they greet the rest of Unselfish.

They are in search of their friends. Mira, Amara, and Sweetie. That is how they want to start their first day together in Unselfish.

Not surprisingly, Sweetie is already up and around. He is talking to everyone he can find in Unselfish. Clearly, he wants to tell them about his sweetie. Who she was. What she meant to him. Everyone wants to hear the story. Everyone wants to get to know him.

He spots Taj and Miguel. Comes almost running to them. Grabs them both. Hugs them dearly. Like they were his sweetie. Like they are his new sweeties. Like they are his children.

Taj and Miguel hug him back with the same fervor. They have now become family.

After a little while, Mira and Amara emerge from their living space. They needed the rest. They needed time together. They needed to be together.

But now the day begins. Most all of Unselfish is awake and launches into their day.

Taj's group seek and find Joshua.

Taj takes the lead, saying to Joshua, "Again, we are very, very grateful for the way you received us. For letting us join the community of Unselfish."

"There is so much we want to learn about your community. How it came about. How it works. Especially, how a community built on the founding principle of unselfishness works. How it works when the surrounding world has fallen to selfishness."

Joshua responds, “We would be most happy to answer all your questions. To have you become full members of Unselfish.”

“But I am probably not the best person to play that role. Let me introduce you to Tall Woman. Tall Woman, born as a member of the Dakota tribe, is one of very few of her tribe still alive.”

“She is a founding member of Unselfish. She represents the best of Unselfish. She is probably our most unselfish member. I leave you in her most capable and caring hands.”

An impressive woman steps forward. A woman who very much stands tall in many ways. She is strong. She is wise. She is caring. She, by all indication, may be one of the most unselfish human beings in Unselfish and maybe beyond.

“Welcome. I am Tall Woman, member of the Dakota tribe and founding member of Unselfish,” speaks Tall Woman.

“It would be my great honor to help you learn all there is to know about Unselfish. My hope is that it will help you be amongst its strongest and most caring members.”

“Let me begin at the beginning. The beginning of Unselfish.”

Tall woman seats herself on a large boulder with legs crossed. Taj, Miguel, and Sweetie seat themselves on other boulders just in front of Tall Woman.

Tall Woman tells the story, “In the beginning, there were a few unselfish beings who found their way to this place. At that time, the previous community’s human beings had left. They left for many reasons. All that was left was the land and empty buildings. But that was to be enough. It had to be enough.”

“Those of us who were the first came from many places. Some very far away. Somehow, we were drawn here. Coming here, we found kindred spirits. Kindred spirits who were unselfish. Who wanted to be with others. Who wanted to build a surviving and thriving future in this place.”



GChris

tall woman



GChris

tall woman

Tall Woman

1' x 2', wood and metal stabile

Aspiration: Become and be Tall Woman who flies like butterfly decides like wolf at speed of light achieving greater good!

“Key was the incredible diversity of those who came. In fact, the only common element was that they were unselfish human beings. Diversity. Diverse ethnic roots. Diverse races. Diverse sexes. Diverse thinking. Diverse skills and knowledge. All this came together to form this Unselfish community.”

Taj queries, “You said ‘this Unselfish community’. Are there more such communities? I truly hope so.”

Tall Woman nods yes, “There are many scattered across the world. The common elements are diversity and unselfishness. All have the common name Unselfish. Though each language spells and pronounces it differently. That was an early decision as these communities formed. Our Unselfish community was the first to use that name. As the word spread about our community, so did he name.”

Again, Taj asks, “Then how do you know which is which since they have the same name?”

“That is easy,” responds Tall Woman. “Each has both the Unselfish name and then a second name to distinguish itself. We are known as Unselfish Tall.”

“My community was very kind. They took part of my name to add to Unselfish. Unselfish Tall. In many ways, it fits this community. It was the first. It stands tall in the history of Unselfish communities.”

“But more about how this all works,” Tall Woman continues. “As you know well, there are many Selfish Ones outside our community. By the way, that is how we refer to them. Selfish Ones.”

“Because of that, we must protect ourselves and the food and water resources we have. We are always willing to share a day’s worth of food and water with anyone, including a Selfish One. But that is all. Then, if the human being is selfish, that being must move on. Our food and water are pretty limited. We share as much as we can.”

“If they change to become unselfish, they can join our community. But we have to make sure they are truly unselfish.”

Miguel looks concerned and asks, “But we have encountered Selfish Ones before we made it here. Many of them are dangerous. To themselves and to others. How do you protect yourselves? How do you protect your precious food and water.”

“Good question Miguel,” responds Tall Woman. “As for protecting ourselves and our community, we have developed skills, defensive tools, and protective borders.”

“It helps that the Selfish Ones often focus more on fighting each other than fighting us. That may change as more groups form. It also helps that they are killing each other. Fewer Selfish Ones for us to worry about. That is also a bit tragic.”

“But we do still worry. And we do still protect ourselves.”

“As for food and water, there are special protections. Our most vulnerable time is while we are producing food, mostly fruits and vegetables. Our garden and farm spaces get raided periodically. But the raiders can only carry off small amounts. Not enough to hurt our supply.”

“As for water, we are blessed by several springs and two shallow wells. Both easy to maintain and protect. Very important is we have a large water storage tank that is heavily protected. That provides us with many days’ worth of water.”

Taj looks around and then says, “But I do not see where you safely store food.”

Tall Woman smiles and responds, “Look carefully to the center of Unselfish Tall. You see what looks like a hill. It is much more than a hill. It is a stone and concrete storage vault with very thick walls and roof. All covered with earth. Two heavily secured entrances. Enough space to store food and water for the whole community for at least a month. Maybe more if we ration.”

“It is also a place we can use for temporary refuge for the whole community if it is under attack. We can survive in the vault for a week or more. After that, it becomes more challenging.”

“As for securing this protected vault, the two entrances are heavily secured with big sliding steel doors. Each secured with two locks. Only three people in Unselfish Tall have the keys for those locks. The keys are distributed so that it takes two people with two different keys to open the doors. That is to deal with the chance that one of the keyholders is captured and their key taken.”

“What if something bad happens to all three keyholders,” asks Miguel. “Is there no way to get in or out?”

“There is,” Tall Woman assures him. “First, two of us, Joshua and I, have another way to open and close the doors. But if all the access holders are lost and Joshua and I are killed, we have one other backup. The other Unselfish communities. We have reciprocal agreements with two other Unselfish communities. They can come to our aid and can access the storage vault. We do the same for them.”

“But we do not want to lose all we have built and all the food and water we store. In the worst case and our community ceases, these two other Unselfish communities can open the vault and take whatever food and water remain. They also have the option of having some of their members move here and bring Unselfish Tall back to life.”



Chapter 10. Intruders

Midnight. Community alarm sounds. Red warning light flashes in each living space.

Taj and Miguel are wide awake. They look at each briefly. Jump out of bed. Pull on day clothes and shoes. Run out the front door.

Already Unselfish Tall members are coming out of their living spaces. Many rush to the vault. Their role tonight is to get to safety.

Some Unselfish Tall members are rushing to the community's border. To protect the border. Their responsibility is surveillance. Is to respond as needed. They have defensive tools at their side.

Some Unselfish Tall members stand guard within the community. Their role is to deal with any intruders who make into Unselfish Tall. They have defensive tools at their side.

Word is quickly passed. Intruders at the border. Intruders moving toward the vault.

Unselfish Tall has a very simple but sophisticated system for dealing with potential threats. And for actual threats.

Three bell rings mean intruders at the border. Five bell rings mean intruders inside the community and threat is imminent.

Warning lights are similar but tell Unselfish Tall members what to do. Flashing yellow light means to be aware of potential threat. Flashing orange light means shelter in place, a member's living space or place of work or education. Flashing red light means proceed immediately to your assigned role. If you have no assigned role, proceed immediately to the vault.

As newcomers to Unselfish, Taj, Miguel, and Sweetie run to the safety of the vault.

Just moments after they enter, the two sets of doors slam shut. Locked. Both sides of the vault secured.

Taj has so many questions. But this is not the time to ask. Just sit tight and do what she is told.

She sees Tall Woman by one wall of the vault. In urgent dialogue with five other Unselfish members. She is not far from Taj. Close enough to be heard by Taj.

Taj listens carefully. Tall Woman is explaining what is happening outside.

About twenty Selfish Ones are in or around Unselfish Tall. Fifteen still at the border and being held back. Five are inside the community and not far from the vault.

The protective measures at the border are holding for the moment, keeping the fifteen Selfish Ones out. These Selfish Ones have guns and other weapons. But they have been unable to breach the border.

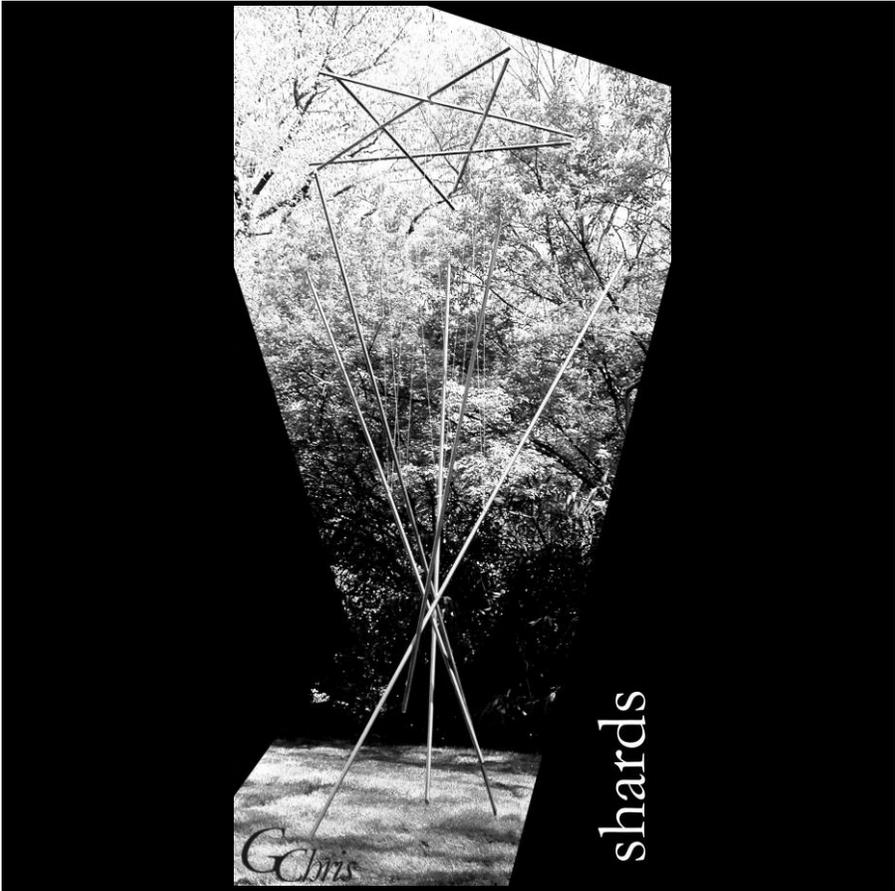
The five already inside the community are a bigger problem. These five will have to be dealt with face to face. Joshua is leading the effort to protect the vault and those inside. The effort is to drive the intruders back out of the community. At the moment, stalemate. Joshua is in dialogue with purported leader of the Selfish Ones. Though, apparently, this Selfish One is not much of a leader and has little control over the other intruders.

An Unselfish Tall member rushes over to Tall Woman with a message. A message from Joshua. Joshua's team of defenders have deployed non-lethal countermeasures. Two of Joshua's team have been killed. Two more injured.

Moments pass.

Then, finally, good news. The five intruders inside Unselfish Tall have been captured. The fifteen intruders have given up their assault and ran away.

Joshua signals that the intrusion is over. They are confident that the intruders have either been captured or neutralized or have run away. The ones running away appear to have left to find another place to attack. To steal food and water from. To do other violence to.



shards (of war)

4' x 6', metal mobile

Calls upon those with the power to avoid or end war to bring an end to war and the resulting aftermath, as depicted by "shards" (shattered fragments).

Unselfish Tall is now safe. Vault doors are unlocked. They open to the early morning air.

Members stream out into the common space. Learn more about what happened and did not happen. After about an hour, all return to their living spaces. Taj, Miguel, and Sweetie are returning to their living spaces.

Tall Woman catches them for a moment and assures them, “We are okay. We lost a couple of our members. A great tragedy. But it could have been much worse.”

“Our protection system worked. Unselfish Tall remains alive and well.”

“Go get some sleep. You have a big day tomorrow.”

Unselfish Tall is not alone. Not alone in experiencing threats as it did this night. Not alone in facing and dealing with threats like tonight.

Unselfish Tall advised other Unselfish communities of the threat. Advised them to warn other Unselfish communities. Advised them on how Unselfish Tall was able to handle the threat. For the Unselfish communities to survive and thrive, they must help each other. Nothing less is expected of unselfish human beings and unselfish communities.



Chapter 11. Community of Unselfish Communities

Morning in Unselfish Tall.

Everybody is awake, engaged in their important roles in supporting Unselfish Tall.

Waking early, Taj, Miguel, and Sweetie are in search of Tall Woman. Eager to learn what roles they will play in Unselfish Tall.

After about an hour, they find Tall Woman engaged in her role. She helps others learn. She is the lead, across all ages, to help others learn the importance of being unselfish. Learn how to survive and thrive while being unselfish. In many ways, she is the most important and essential member of Unselfish Tall. And she loves her role.

For an hour, they sit and watch her lead the learning. Watch community members learn. Grow taller like her.

Then this part of her role is done for the day. As she leaves the learning space, she sees Taj and her friends. She comes to them.

“Sweetie,” she addresses first. “My understanding is that you are quite a gardener. Not only did you have your own garden in your back yard, but you taught others how to garden. Especially how to grow fruits and vegetables.”

“I certainly did,” responds Sweetie. “I was very proud of what I could produce. Took care of all my own needs. Took care of some of my neighbors’ needs. As time went by, they grew to be good gardeners as well.”

Tall Woman smiles, “If you would be so kind, we would like you to continue your good work. We have large gardens. We have a very large need to produce food for Unselfish Tall. Whenever we can, we also share with our partner Unselfish communities. They do the same with their partner communities.”

Sweetie, with a huge smile on face, nods yes. It has been quite some time since he was asked to share in the way she was asking him to share.

“Now Miguel,” says Tall Woman as she turns to him. “Even at your young age, my understanding is that you have quite a knowledge of technology. Something we are a bit short on.”

“The lesson from last night is that we need to make our borders even stronger. To make our non-lethal defensive tools even stronger without making them lethal. Your knowledge of and skills with new technologies can help us do that.”

“But you will not just be helping Unselfish Tall, the other Unselfish communities have the same shortcomings and the same needs. What you do to help us here will also be shared with the other Unselfish communities. You will be doing a bit of traveling as you spread your knowledge and skills.”

“That would be so cool,” responds Miguel with great enthusiasm. “I still have much to learn. But I can help with what I already know. And I can share what more I learn. And help share any new tools we develop.”

“Taj, now it is your turn,” says Tall Woman as she turns to Taj.

As Tall Woman looks at Taj, she sees an extraordinary young woman.

As Miguel, her new partner, would attest, she is most beautiful. Her diverse heritage comes through in many ways. Every time someone looks at her, another beautiful aspect of that diversity shines through. She is unselfish, almost to a fault. If necessary, she would die having given her last bite of food and her last sip of water. She is very loving of others. Not just Miguel her partner, but others. She may not even know that of herself. But it is clearly evident every time she interacts with another human being. Interacts with another nonhuman creature. Touches the Earth.



serenity

2' x 3', metal mobile

As does a soaring eagle in high thermals, we too can experience thriving and serenity at the highest points of our existence.

Image of woman cliff diver just as she leaps off the cliff edge. Unfurls eagle's wings. Now can soar or continue dive. Serenity.

“As I look at you, I wonder just how much potential you really have. You are already giving signs of great potential. Your unselfishness. Your sharing. Your leadership.”

“I believe you have much more potential than you realize. That is what we want to ask of you. To take that potential and take it as far as you can.”

“I very much want you to be a tall woman. Tall. Strong. Wise. And a great leader.”

“That would be one of my proudest legacies.”

Taj is in tears. No one. No one has ever asked or expected her to be a tall woman.

Taj finally finds words, “You ask so much. You expect so much. I am still very young with so much to learn. But I want to learn. I want to grow to.... To grow maybe even as tall as the Tall Woman who stands in front of me. Who asks so much of me.”

“I will try my best. No, I will be tall. I will make you and Unselfish Tall proud of me. I will honor my parents. And, even though they have passed, make them proud of me.”

Tall Woman embraces Taj, “That is all we can ask of you. That is all we can ever ask for.”

And so, it begins for Taj.

She walks side by side with Tall Woman. Learning all she can from the tall woman she walks beside.

She learns even more what it means to be unselfish. How to be unselfish. How to share with others, not just in Unselfish Tall but also with other Unselfish communities. How to lead other unselfish beings, always as their partner. How to lead Unselfish Tall.

Within a few months, she has grown so much. Learned so much. She is ready.

Tall Woman takes her aside and says, “Taj, you are quite amazing. How tall you have grown in just these few months.”

“It is time to ask more of you. To expect more of you. You need to go beyond Unselfish Tall.”

Taj goes quiet. Lowers her head in respect.

“You need to share yourself with other Unselfish communities. We need to share you with other Unselfish communities.”

“If you are willing, I am asking you to begin the next phase of your life. I will always make sure you make your way back to Miguel. I know how important he is to you. I will find ways for Miguel to make his way to you. I know how important you are to him.’

Taj now has a big smile.

Bowing down with deep respect for Tall Woman, Taj responds, “As you wish. I would be greatly honored.”

It is almost midnight. Miguel is fast asleep. Taj sits outside their living space on a park bench. The moon is just a sliver. Night sky filled with stars. A sound. Someone coming toward her. Tall Woman.

“May I join you,” Tall Woman asks Taj. “Such a beautiful night. Worthy of sharing.”

“Of course,” responds Taj. “Always an honor.”

“Knowing your personal history, I thought you might want to hear a bit more about mine. As you know, I am Dakota. Our most famous and revered leader was Sitting Bull.”

Dakota are very unselfish beings. They do their best to never take more than they give, especially with the Earth.”

“Very proud and strong human beings. But not terribly aggressive. Over their history, they were forced to move many times. Faced many enemies. Experienced great loss.”

“Taj, you lost your whole family. So did I lose my ancestor family. During one of the many battles, my whole family was killed. Except one woman pregnant with child. She was protected and escaped with others. Unfortunately, she died during childbirth. Fortunately, the baby survived. That baby was the only survivor to carry on my family. From her am I here. Now the sole survivor of my family.”

“Just like you. The sole survivor of a family. Like you, I had to decide whether to give up or persevere. I chose to persevere. As you know, I have two children. I am very proud of them. They are part of my legacy. Unselfish Tall is part of my legacy.”

“Now it is your turn. Your turn to create your legacy. Your personal legacy with Miguel. Your larger legacy with Unselfish Tall and with the other Unselfish communities.”

Taj was filled with emotion, responding, “Tall Woman, I could only hope to live up to even part of your great legacy. I have much yet to learn. I have much left to do. I have much left to achieve.”



reverence

1' x 3', wood and metal stabile

Reverence for first people who first to come to a world and nurture all of that world. reverence for Earth and all its creatures.

Sculpture abstracted from image of Sitting Bull, Leader of the Dakota people, with his sacred pipe.

“I will do my very, very best to honor your legacy. To honor my family’s legacy. Being unselfish, to help build and achieve a better future for all.”

“I could ask for and hope for no more,” Tall Woman says as she rises and walks off in the starlit night.

Taj and Miguel begin their new life. Their sharing with each other. Sharing with Unselfish Tall. Sharing with all other human beings. Even more becoming unselfish beings.



Chapter 12. World of Unselfish Communities

So very much has changed over several decades. It is a very different world. Countries are gone. Governments, as they were, are gone. Militaries are gone. Wars are gone.

Unselfish communities, networked together, are now the primary foundation for human organization.

Many of Earth's non-human creatures escaped extinction. Many are thriving once again.

Earth is no longer suffering great damage. Much of Earth is beginning to recover.

Human beings have changed. Selfishness in its purest bad form is gone for all practical purposes. Unselfishness is now the guiding philosophy. Unselfishness is the driving behavior.

Several decades have passed since the beginning of Unselfish Tall by Joshua and Tall Woman. A few decades have passed since Taj and her friends entered Unselfish Tall. Entered the world of Unselfish communities.

Now a fully grown woman. A very tall woman. Taj has become a leader of the Unselfish communities. Many consider her the primary leader of the world of Unselfish communities.

In the aftermath of a world undone by selfish human behavior, countries, as they once were, dissolved. Government leaders had failed and just gave up. Government agencies had failed and just dissolved. Constitutions and laws lost their value as they failed to match this new reality.

Country boundaries no longer made sense since they were always artificial constructs. Countries gone. The same for States. States were gone. In their place, communities. And communities of communities.

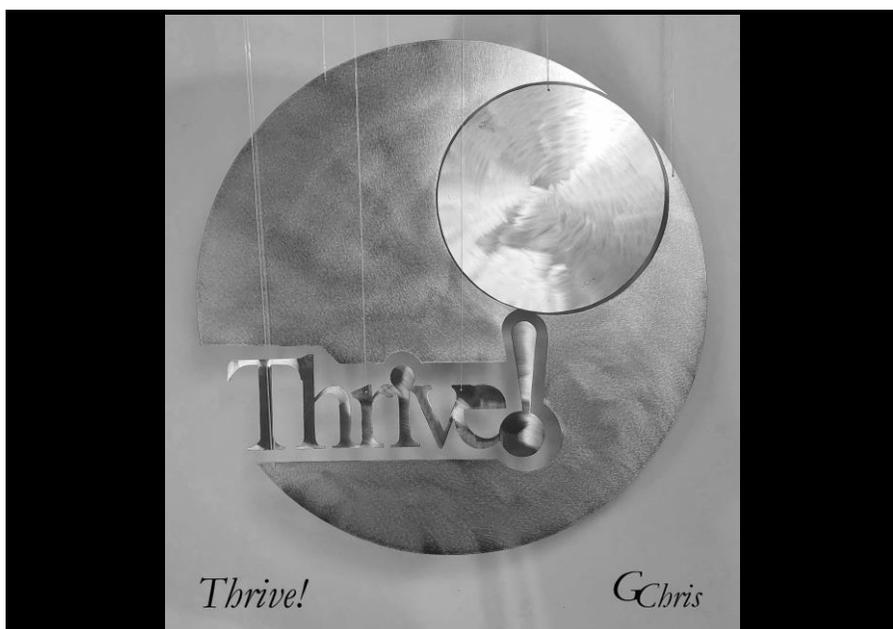
Militaries were dissolved. When the world became undone, it was clear that the militaries failed. Failed by not stopping destructive behavior. Failed, in some case, by carrying out destructive behavior. When they dissolved, their members found their way into the selfish world or into unselfish communities. Though not quite the same, existing police forces did relatively little to stop destructive behavior. They just dissolved and their members found their way into the selfish world or into unselfish communities.

The selfish world, consisting of selfish human beings that were known as the Selfish Ones, slowly destroys itself. Selfishness prevents them from organizing into a force. Selfishness leads to much infighting. Infighting means they are unable to produce the needed food and water. Infighting leads to many, many deaths. Now there are only small, scattered numbers of Selfish Ones. For now, they are no longer a significant threat to the unselfish world.

With all that has gone before, it is good that the world of Unselfish communities came into being. If there is hope for a surviving and thriving future for the world, it lies with the world of Unselfish communities.

What has formed is a worldwide network of Unselfish communities. A true partnership. Each community is different. But the common bond is the commitment to being unselfish. Commitment to share. Commitment to do no harm to other human beings. No harm to other creatures. No harm to Earth.

Different communities produce different foods and then share those foods with other communities. Some communities share water resources. Communication networks connect all the communities. Technology is shared and flows freely across communities. Knowledge and skills are shared and flow freely across communities. Leaders help other leaders. Leaders help potential leaders learn how to build surviving and thriving communities.



Thrive!

3' x 3', metal mobile

Thrive! A thriving future for all if and only if humans stop being selfish, shortsighted, and stupid. Then and only then will there be a thriving future for all humans, all other creatures and Earth.

The result. Likely a surviving and thriving future for all.

As did Tall Woman and Joshua before her, Taj is the primary leader of the Unselfish communities. Is the primary force for helping sustain their being unselfish. She misses Tall Woman and Joshua. They passed away just a few years ago.

Being unselfish is a way of life. A sharing way to live with other human beings. A positive path to a surviving and thriving future.

Being unselfish is not a religion and will never be one. That was one of the early decisions amongst the Unselfish communities. The Unselfish communities do not interfere with personal beliefs as long as they are not negatively selfish. As long as they do not lead to harming others. This has not been a problem. In fact, it has led to even more diverse beliefs.

Taj was key to this. She wanted very carefully sustain the unselfish communities and an unselfish world. But she did not want to see it lose its diversity. The very diversity that made her a very strong, tall human being. The very diversity that enables her to help sustain the Unselfish communities and world.

The network of Unselfish communities has become very strong. Each year, Unselfish communities in a given geographic area meet. Share what they have learned. Look for opportunities to share all kinds of knowledge and resources among the Unselfish communities. They select a representative to go to the annual world meeting of Unselfish communities.

Annually, representatives from the world's geographic areas come together to share all kinds of knowledge and resources across all Unselfish communities worldwide. A key body of work is to how different communities in different parts of the world can help each other.

They know well that natural resources are not equally distributed across the world. A network of sharing is being developed to share and move natural resources worldwide to where they are most needed.

Another key body of work is to sustain the worldwide communication network. To sustain all networking.

Through this all, Taj and Miguel stayed together. Though often apart in their respective roles, they stayed together. Their primary living space remains in Unselfish Tall.

Taj and Miguel now have two children. A girl and a boy. It was very important for them to help create the next generation. But, very importantly, to carry on each of their families.

To honor their parents and their families, having children was something they both wanted to do. It has not been easy raising their two children, but they do it. Most of Unselfish Tall believes they do it very well. But they are not alone. Many members of Unselfish Tall help with the raising of the two children. Helping them grow strong and tall like Taj and Miguel.

Over the years, there has been much discussion about the term “unselfish”. Much learning. Here is how Taj explains it during her learning sessions for new members.

“Each human being asks how to survive and thrive while being unselfish?”

“You yourself can and should survive while being unselfish. Just as you help others survive and thrive, so must you.”

“For you yourself to survive and thrive, you need financial and other resources, and you need to learn. To survive and thrive, if you can you earn and use a living income from your work. If you can, you acquire and use savings. You may seek financial assistance from others and from your community.”

“To survive and thrive, you can use these resources and others to acquire and ensure good shelter, food, water, clothing, transportation, education, protection from storms, and protection from heat and cold. Important to acquire and ensure these necessities for both the near and long term.”

To survive and thrive, you should learn as much as you can. Acquire basic education. Continue to learn. This may be a technical or trade education. May be a more general education. May be learning from another person. May be on-the-job learning. May be self-taught learning. Any or all of these can be helpful.

But learning is lifelong. There is always more to learn. Over your lifetime, the world changes, as ours has. So, you must know more. That requires continuous learning.”

“For you yourself to survive and thrive, you must also take care of yourself. Being unselfish does not mean you stop taking care of yourself. Take good care of yourself. Failing to take good care of yourself is bad for you and would prevent you from helping take care of others. But do not take care of yourself at the expense of others.

And, most importantly, do take good care of others as well. ‘Others’ include other human beings, other creatures, and home Earth.

By taking good care of yourself and others and by not hurting others, you stop being selfish. You are unselfish. You survive and thrive. You help ensure a surviving and thriving future for all.”

“You can and should thrive while being unselfish. Thriving while being unselfish follows the same path and the same behaviors. Thriving does not require great wealth. Thriving can be achieved without taking from others, harming other creatures, and harming Earth.”

“Thriving is when you perform well, are financially well-off, are well nourished, are well housed, are well protected from exposures and crime, are well educated, are physically and mentally well, are growing and developing well, are living within good habitat, are physically well (plants, animals, environment), are not vulnerable, are producing personal and public goods, are living within a stable, positive climate, and are sustainable.

To clarify ‘financially well-off’ does not mean great wealth. It means enough financial resources to live reasonably well for a lifetime. Beyond that, financial resources should be shared with others.”

“Thriving is much about feeling good about yourself and caring about and for everything else.”

“To ensure all thrive, including yourself, you can and should take the path to, believe in, and envision a thriving future for all, including ourselves. That is what thriving is. Thriving is hopeful path. Inspiring vision. Positive belief system. Positive way of life. A thriving human being helps build and sustain a thriving future with and for all – each person, all people, all other creatures, and Earth.”

Thriving is when you strive for and achieve higher level of positive motivation and ability, including knowledge. Higher level of positive behavior. Strive continuously and simultaneously with the best combination of independence and interdependence in joint pursuit of surviving and thriving. Care enough about yourself, everyone else, everything else, and Earth. Care enough about today and both near- and long-term future. Strive on a path through this complex world and toward thriving.”

“As you strive and grow and as you are unselfish, you survive and thrive. So does everyone, everything, and Earth.”

That is what Taj passes on. That is the meaning of “being unselfish”. That is the foundation of unselfish beings and unselfish communities. The foundation of an unselfish world.



Epilogue

As time passes, old world selfishness continues to disappear. The new world of unselfish beings and unselfish communities continues to develop and grow stronger.

The foundation of being unselfish has carried the world beyond the bad past to a surviving and thriving future for all.



thriving future for all

CChris

thriving future for all

3' x 2', metal mobile

Thrive! is a surviving and thriving future for all forever. It is building a thriving future for all forever. It is and requires a vast, sustained human endeavor building and sustaining a thriving and surviving future for all forever. Thrive! A thriving future for all if and only if humans stop being selfish, shortsighted, and stupid. Then and only then will there be a thriving future for all humans, all other creatures and Earth.



Appendix A. Thrive! Media - Websites, Blogs & Books

Overall Thrive! Strategy. Thrive! vision, mission, strategy and supportive tools help create and sustain large, positive and timely change and build a thriving future for all forever. To build a thriving and surviving future:

- Vision: All thrive forever. All includes you, your communities, and our world.
- Mission: Large, positive, timely change achieving surviving and thriving future for all forever.
- Strategy: A joint Thrive! Endeavor and call to action builds a thriving future for all forever.

Websites:

[Thrive! - Building a Thriving Future](#) – Core and foundational website supporting websites and blogs.

Includes supporting strategy/tools/books to build better future.

[ThrivingFuture.org](#)

Thrive! Endeavor - Join endeavor to build thriving future.

[ThriveEndeavor.org](#)

Thrivism - Join Thrivism to build thriving future for all. [Thrivism.world](#)

Children Thrive Forever! - Aspire to future when children thrive forever.

[ChildrenThriveForever.org](#)

All Thrive Forever - Aspire to better future when all thrive forever. [AllThriveForever.org](#)

We Are Vulnerable - Reduce and avoid vulnerability for better future.

[WeAreVulnerable.org](#)

The Thrive! System - Helping you and your community survive and thrive.

[TheThriveSystem.org](#)

Thrive! - All Thrive Forever - Play" strategic game in real-life. [ThriveForever.org](#)

Endangered Future - Endangered more than ever before in our history.

[EndangeredFuture.org](#)

Xtinct – Current path is early extinction for humans and other creatures and great damage to Earth. Xtinct.org

HealththePeople - Use Thrive! to build healthy and thriving future.
HealththePeople.com

GChris Sculpture - Thrive! sculpture supporting endeavor to build thriving future. GChris.com

Thrive! Blogs:

Thrivism Blog – Blog on path to thriving future for all. Thrivism.blog
T! Blog - Blog key Thrive! messages and suggested actions. ThriveBlog.org
T! Blog - Blog asking and challenging "What will you do?" ThriveBlog.net
T! Blog - Thrive! sculpture and thoughts/messages. [WordPress Blog]
ThriveSculpture.com
T! Blog - Thrive! sculpture and thoughts/messages. [Website Blog]
ThriveSculpture.org

eMedia:

[LinkedIn Thrive!](#)
[Facebook Thrive!](#) [Includes Thrive!, Thrivism, All Thrive Forever, HealththePeople, GChris Sculpture]
[Twitter Thrive!](#)
[YouTube Thrive!](#)
[Tumblr Thrive!](#)
[Flickr Thrive!](#)
[ello Thrive!](#)
[MySpace Thrive!](#)
[Pinterest Thrive!](#)
[Medium Thrive!](#)

GChris Sculpture Website:

GChris Sculpture - Hundreds of Thrive! sculpture by GChris supporting thriving future. Acquisition payments all go to support Thrive! Scholarship Fund. GChris.com

Book on Chris:

Book on Chris - A Life in Pursuit of Thriving for All. This is story of and by Chris [Gary “Chris” Christopherson] and his lifelong pursuit of a thriving future – all thrive forever. Available in paperback and eBook via Amazon.com or free download GChris.com

Books - Non-fiction: Available via Amazon.com usually as paperback and eBook.

Thrivism - Path to Thriving Future for All [aka the small "Green Book"]
Lays out path to, belief in, and vision of thriving future for all. Free download @ Thrivism.world

Thrive! - Building a Thriving Future For All. Manual providing greater depth on strategy and tools. Free download @ ThrivingFuture.org

People's Guide To A Thriving Future [For All Forever]. More user-friendly guide. Free download @ ThriveEndeavor.org

Thrive! - Quick Guide To A Thriving Future [For All Forever]. Quick, more user-friendly guide. Free download @ ThriveEndeavor.org

Thrive! Endeavor - All Thrive Forever. Joint Thrive! Endeavor and call to action builds thriving future for all forever. Free download @ ThriveEndeavor.org

Early Extinction or Thriving Future. Which future do we choose for humans, other creatures, and Earth? Free download @ ThriveEndeavor.org

Stop Selfish, Shortsighted, and Stupid. Thought piece challenging humans to stop being selfish, shortsighted and stupid as way to avoid early extinction and build thriving future for all. Free download @ ThriveEndeavor.org

On Razor's Edge - If Humans Have The Will, Human Behavior Can Change To Avoid Early Extinction And Build Thriving Future. Free download @ ThriveEndeavor.org

Behavior Effectiveness Model (BEM). Building thriving future using Behavior Effectiveness Model (BEM). Free download @ ThriveEndeavor.org

The Thrive! System - Achieving Thriving Future For All. System for people and communities to help achieve thriving future for all. Free download @ ThrivingFuture.org.

The Thrive! Philosophy - All Thrive. Underlying philosophy of Thrive! Free download @ ThrivingFuture.org

Thrive! - All Thrive Forever What will you do? The game. The challenge. Free download @ ThriveForever.org

HealthePeople - Achieving Healthy People, Communities, Countries and World via Thrive!. Policy and how-to book on how to achieve healthy people and a healthy future. Free download @ HealthePeople.com

First People Thriving Health Systems - Achieving healthy and thriving First People. Policy and how-to book on how to achieve healthy First People. Free download @ HealthePeople.com

Thrive! Sculpture & Thought: Sculptural Vision of a Thriving Future for All Forever. Thoughts and sculpture that challenge you to think about future and help build, achieve and sustain thriving future for all forever. Free download @ GChris.com

Story of Thrive! Center and Thrive! Park. Free download @ ThriveEndeavor.org

Books - Science Fiction and Children's: Available via Amazon.com usually as paperback and eBook.

Being Unselfish. Story of human beings being unselfish. Creating new world of unselfish communities. Free download @ GChris.com

The Thrive! Endeavor. Science fiction novel with vast human endeavor seeking thriving future for all forever. Free download @ GChris.com

black box. Science fiction novel explores a mysterious and powerful black box and its enormous impact on the world's people and their politics, religions, science and militaries. Free download @ GChris.com

Early Extinction – Angel Comes To Save Earth. Illustrated science fiction book explores threat of early extinction for humans and many other creatures and great damage to Earth. Angel, a Whimsey, comes to help save Earth. Free download @ GChris.com

Extinction - The Failure To Thrive. Illustrated science fiction book explores what happens when human species and Earth become extinct and why it happened so quickly and so completely. Free download @ GChris.com

Thrive! - Escape From Extinction. Illustrated science fiction book explores what happens when human species and Earth almost become extinct and the human species tries to escape extinction and achieve all, including Earth, thrive forever. Free download @ GChris.com

Xtinct – Universal Justice for Earth. Illustrated science fiction book explores moment when universal justice is applied to Earth and human species faces early extinction. Early extinction for humans? Or a thriving future for all of Earth? Free download @ GChris.com

Thrive Or Not To Thrive? - Tale Of Two Tomorrows. Children's paperback fiction book where the good Angel and T!rrific battle the selfish Wily and T!rrible for the future of Whimseys and Whimsey World. Will it be a thriving future for all or not? Free download @ GChris.com

T!rrific [terrific] - What will you do to thrive? Children's paperback fiction book. T!rrific helps Whimseys achieve thriving. Free download @ GChris.com

Angel - Thriving Creator of Artful Things. Children's paperback fiction book on thriving and creativity featuring the world of Whimseys. Free download @ GChris.com



Appendix B. The Thrive! Center

Those who want to learn more about *Thrive!* may want to visit **The Thrive Center** and/or communicate with Chris.

Email GChris@GChris.com

Phone 301 318 3760

Mail

Chris [Gary "Chris" Christopherson]

Founder

The Thrive Center

E298 Cleveland Street

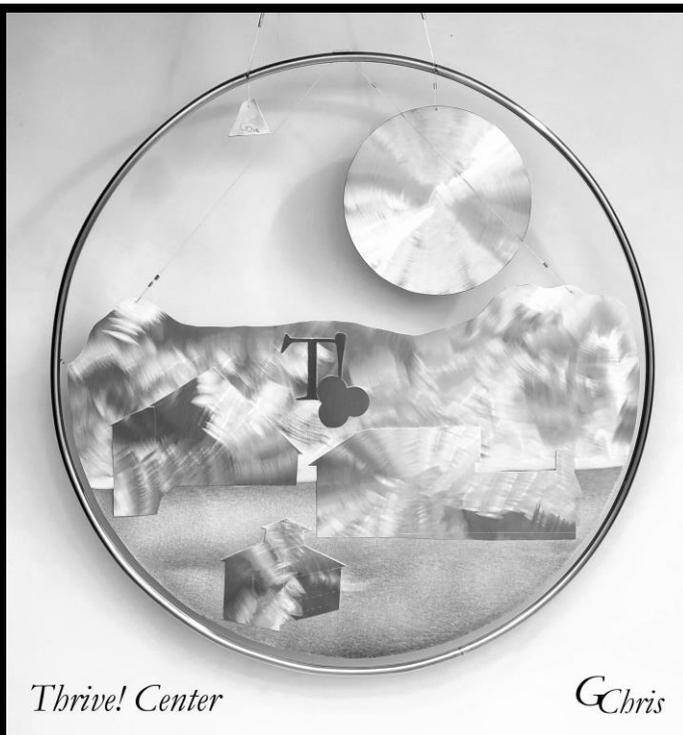
Nelson, WI 54756

The Thrive! Center, home of **Thrivism**, *Thrive*, **Thrive! Endeavor**, **HealthPeople** and **GChris Sculpture**, is on Mississippi River bluffside in restored 1885 farmhouse, barn and beehouse above Village of Nelson (WI). It is surrounded by **Thrive! Park**, a 25+ acre, bluff side, public park donated by Chris.



What can you do at The Thrive! Center?

- **Thrive! Sculpture by GChris.** Want to experience and interact with 200+ abstract sculptures. Copper and wood. Sizes from foot to dozen feet. Some make sounds. Some move physically or conceptually. Sculptor's payments all donated to Thrive! Scholarship Fund. GChris.com
- **Thrive!** Want better future for your family and friends, community, world? Want more, a thriving future? Thrive! Endeavor is call for better, thriving future for all. Thrive! – vision and mission for those wanting to build thriving future for all. All Thrive! services free. ThriveEndeavor.org
- **Thrivism.** Want to live on path to, belief in, and vision of thriving future for all? It is hopeful path. Inspiring vision. Positive belief system. Positive way of life. All Thrivism services free. Thrivism
- **HealthePeople.** Want healthy future for your family and friends, community, country and world? Want best personal, community or country health system? HealthePeople – vision, integrated strategy and effective reform to build accessible, affordable and high-quality health systems for all everywhere. All HealthePeople services free. HealthePeople.com
- **Thrive! Park.** Want to see great scenic views of Mississippi River valley. Walk/hike extensive bluff side/top roads and trails year-round. Experience goat prairie and forest restoration on bluff sides and tops. Hiking roads go along bluff side. Hiking trails go to restored bluff and prairie areas. Public park. Free. ThrivePark.org
- **Historic 1885 Era Bluffside Farm.** Want to tour fully renovated/restored house, barn and beehouse with views of Mississippi River and bluff. Great scenic views. Learn about life on small bluffside farm in 1880s. Visit Thrive! Center and Thrive! Park. Free. ThriveEndeavor.org ThrivePark.org



Thrive! Center

3' x 3', metal mobile

A place at which to thrive together.

Sculptural representation of the Thrive! Center historic buildings, Mississippi River bluffs and Thrive! Park, and the sun coming over the bluffs from the east.

