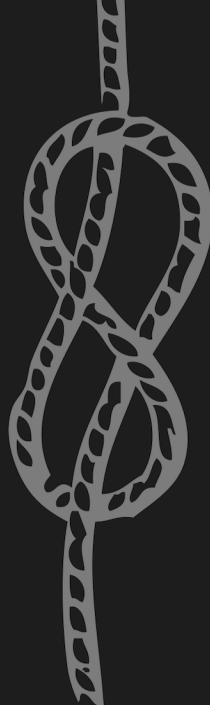
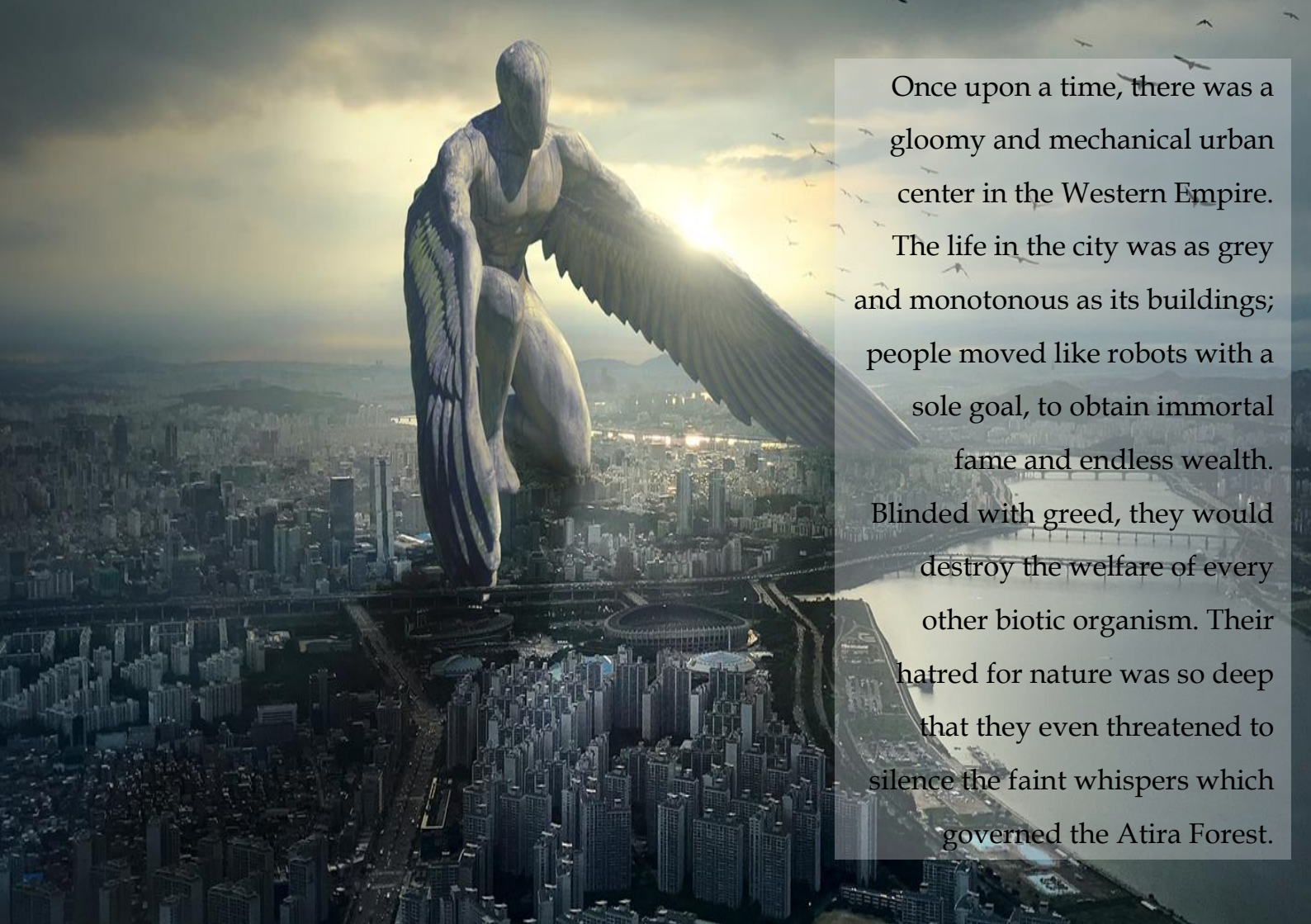


BY  
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PAPADOPOULOU



*Shop to*

*Kill*



Once upon a time, there was a gloomy and mechanical urban center in the Western Empire. The life in the city was as grey and monotonous as its buildings; people moved like robots with a sole goal, to obtain immortal fame and endless wealth. Blinded with greed, they would destroy the welfare of every other biotic organism. Their hatred for nature was so deep that they even threatened to silence the faint whispers which governed the Atira Forest.

A hand holds a smartphone in the foreground, displaying text. The background shows a man in a dark suit and white shirt speaking to a group of people. The man is gesturing with his right hand. The smartphone screen is semi-transparent, showing the text over the background image.

He heard the encouraging comments of the staff person: “Keep going on sir! You’ve 30 more seconds till we need to break and show the ads.”

“Dear citizens of Apikunni, it is my personal honor to be present and to share with you, my fellow friends, the initiation of a pioneering project, which will facilitate all of our lives and give birth to a new generation!” the mayor passionately preached.

“And now...”



They will keep these stupid people entertained for some time" said CEO K

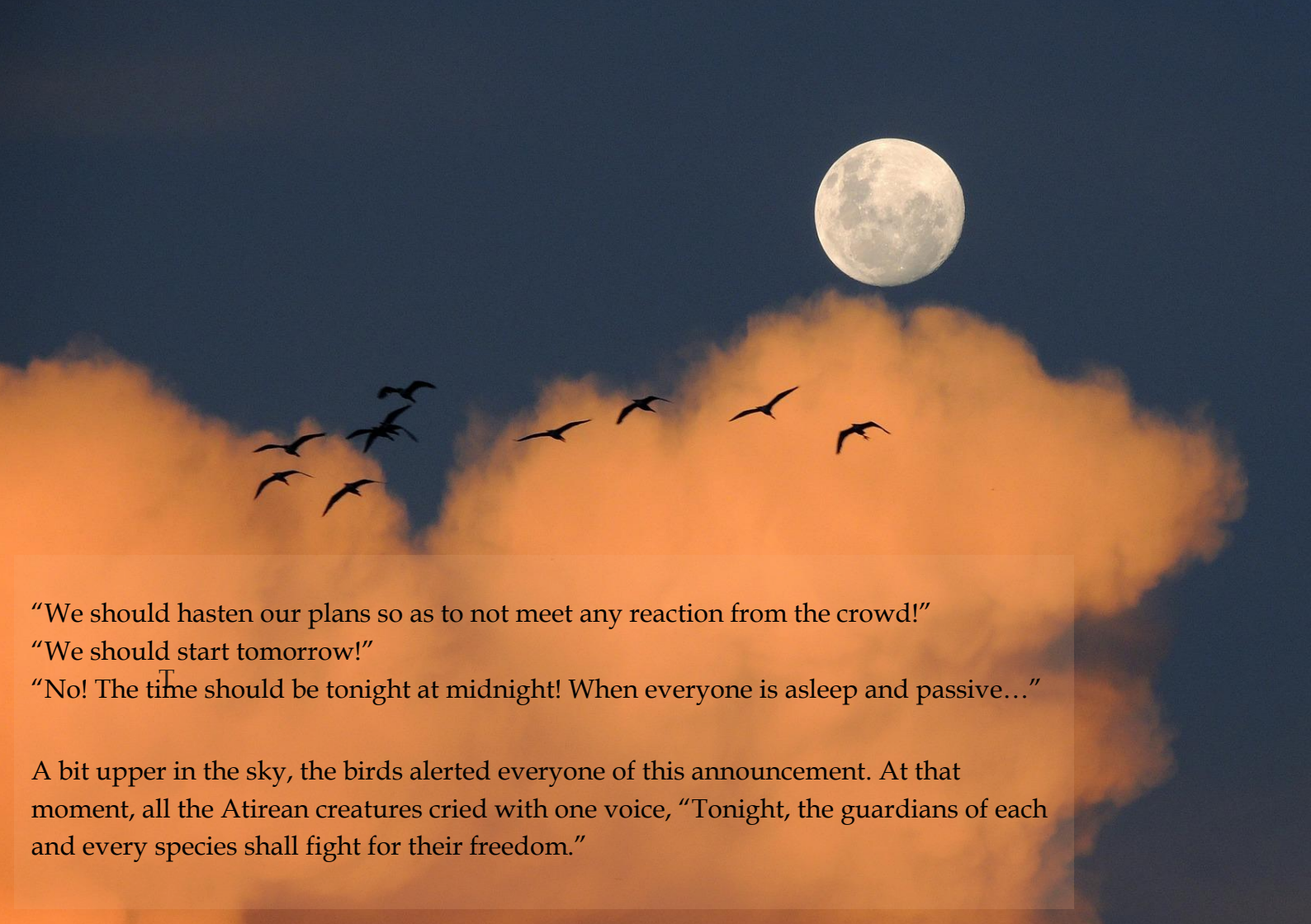
"Agreed. Those fools will consume whatever processed we give them" added CEO I

"And will continue to consume at - "our" - "shopping" - "paradise" responded the twin CEOs L&L. "Now, now, twins, do not get overexcited. We should head over the land to oversee the building process" suggested CEO K.

"... the time has come to meet the sponsor of this event: K.I.L.L. Industries." this message echoed from the gigantic like speakers.



Travelling away from the industrial sounds of Apikunni, we found ourselves a small yet everlasting whisper of hope, the Atira Forest. The life there was so different from the one in the city center. Here, all organisms come alive... The vividness of the flora and the purity of the air birth a local oasis, like the sun who comes out after a hazardous storm. The songs of the bees and the tweets of the birds, as an united chorus, harmonizes the beating heart of the Atira Forest.



“We should hasten our plans so as to not meet any reaction from the crowd!”

“We should start tomorrow!”

“No! The time should be tonight at midnight! When everyone is asleep and passive...”

A bit upper in the sky, the birds alerted everyone of this announcement. At that moment, all the Atirean creatures cried with one voice, “Tonight, the guardians of each and every species shall fight for their freedom.”



The repeated advertisement of “The K.I.L.L. Industries suggest SHOP TILL KILL” was the fuel to the citizens’ anger and opposition to the construction of the mall. To this sound, it was followed by the purr of the bulldozers’ engines, which was preparing for one thing only; deforestation.



The industrial chime was met with the fury of the wolf's howling, which acted like the beating drum which awakened everyone out of the slumber and urged them to act.

Our dear four CEOs woke up to a living nightmare... The crowd of the Apikunni Empire responded to the urgent howl of the wolf and had one quest, to protect the heart of the city, the park.





“What the CEOs failed to realise a single fact, that the park was an intimate place for all. This was the place where children would gather everyday and be in tune with nature! This was the place where lovers could meet free of the oppression of the city-grey! This is our birthright and the place in which we all return and the end of our days. And an old kind soul answered for all, "National parks are the best idea we ever had.”