IN THE END

ILLUSTRATED BY MARC MICHAELS (MORDECHAI PINCHAS), SOFER STa"M.

Original author unknown. This version adapted by Rabbi Jack Riemer and Rabbi Herman J. Blumberg in the Jewish Post, Indianapolis, Marion County, 16 January 1970.

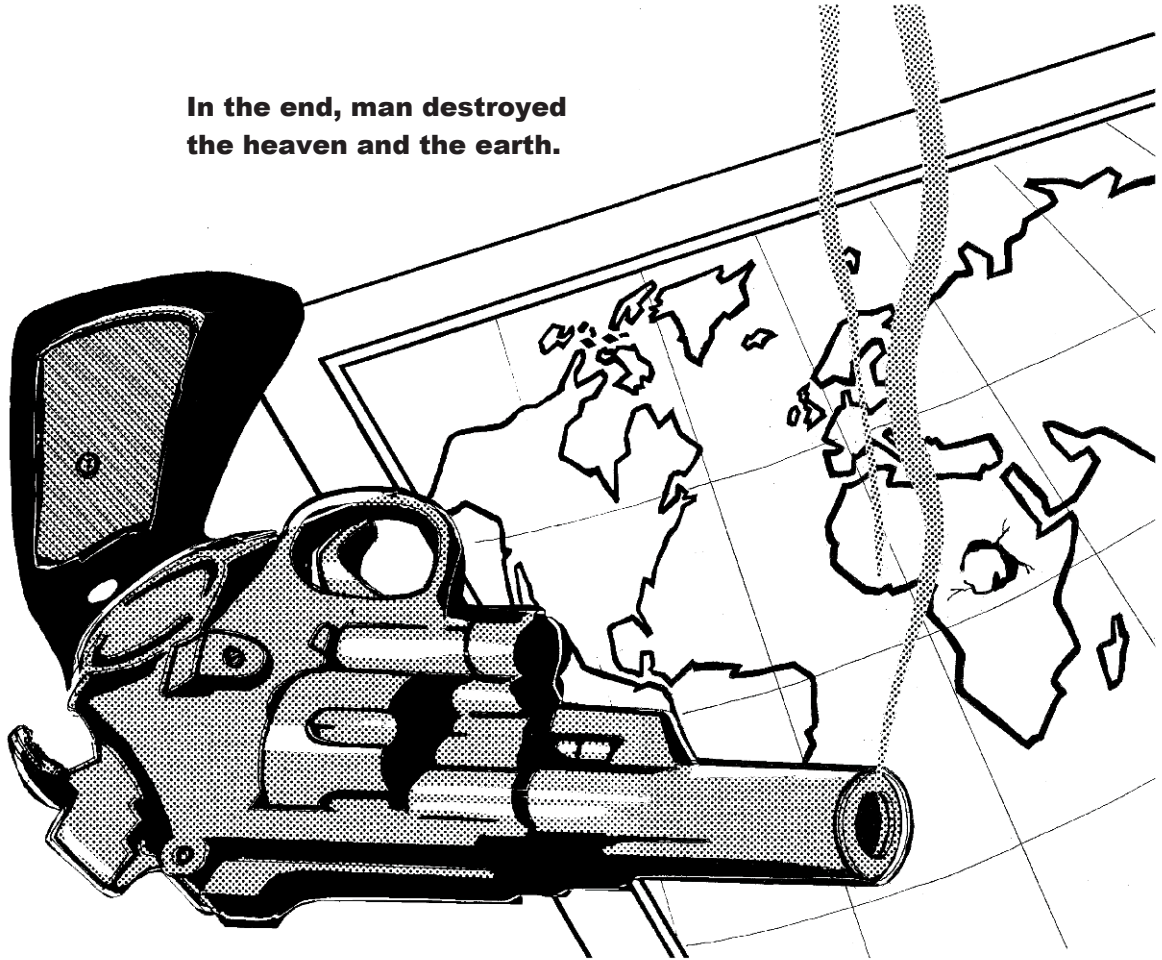
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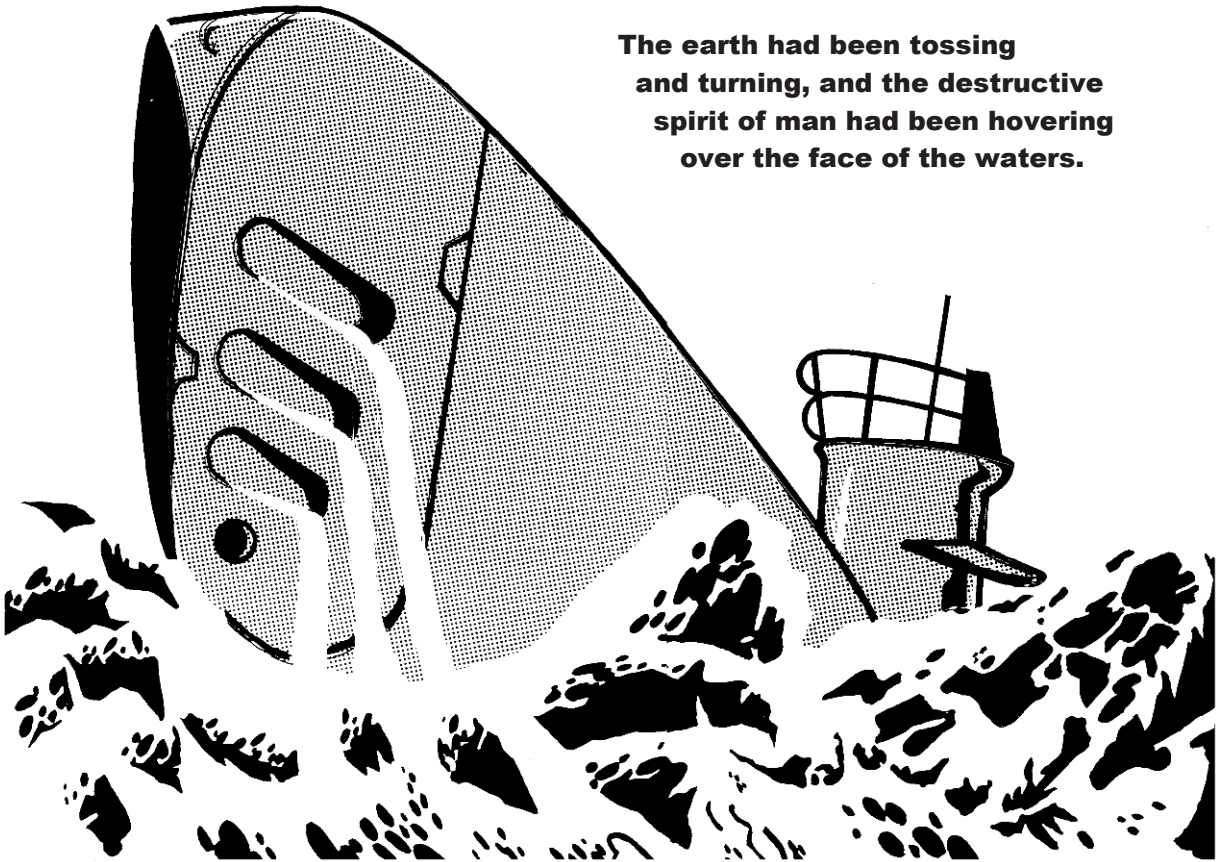


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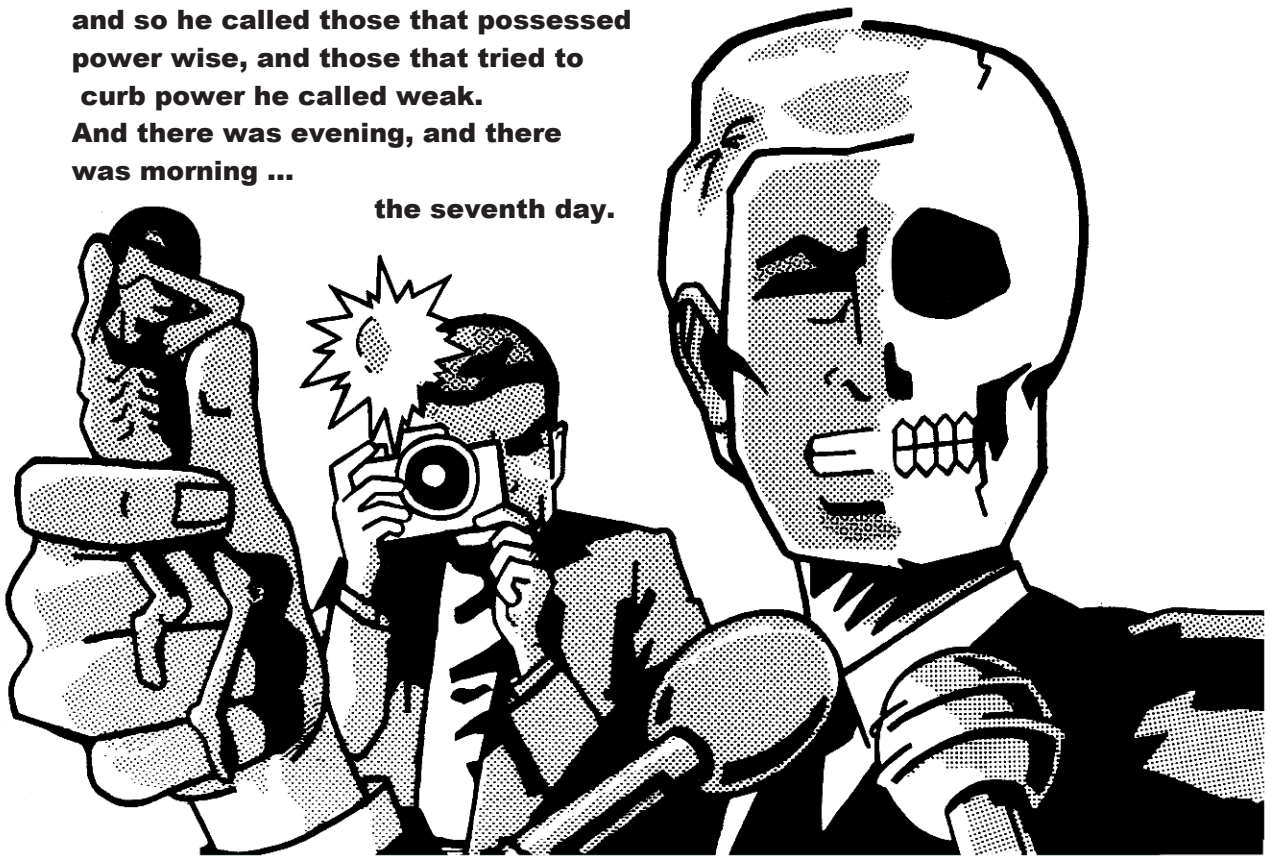
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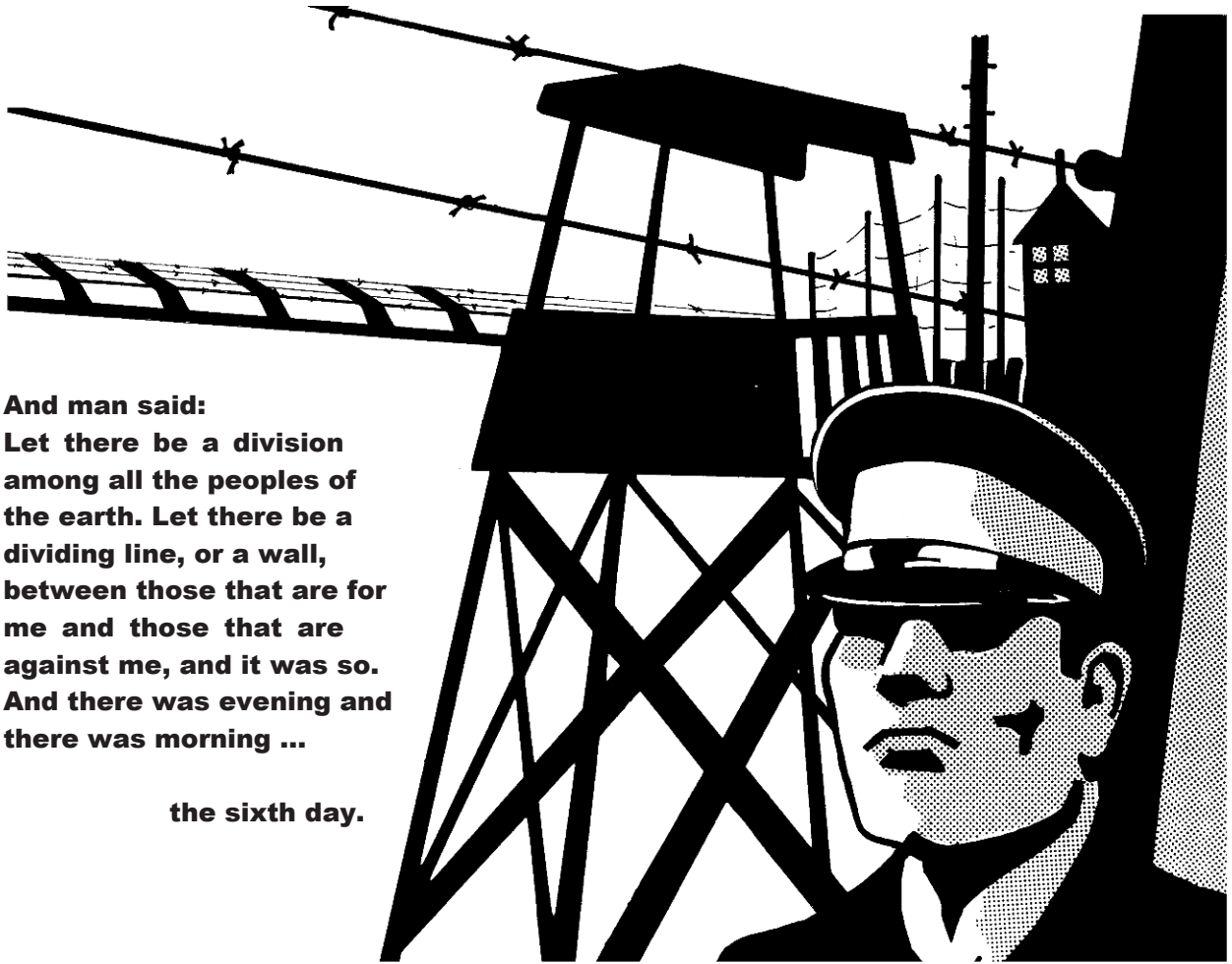

In the end, man destroyed
the heaven and the earth.


The earth had been tossing
and turning, and the destructive
spirit of man had been hovering
over the face of the waters.

And man said: Let me have power over the earth. And it was so.
And man saw that the power tasted good,
and so he called those that possessed
power wise, and those that tried to
curb power he called weak.
And there was evening, and there
was morning ...

the seventh day.



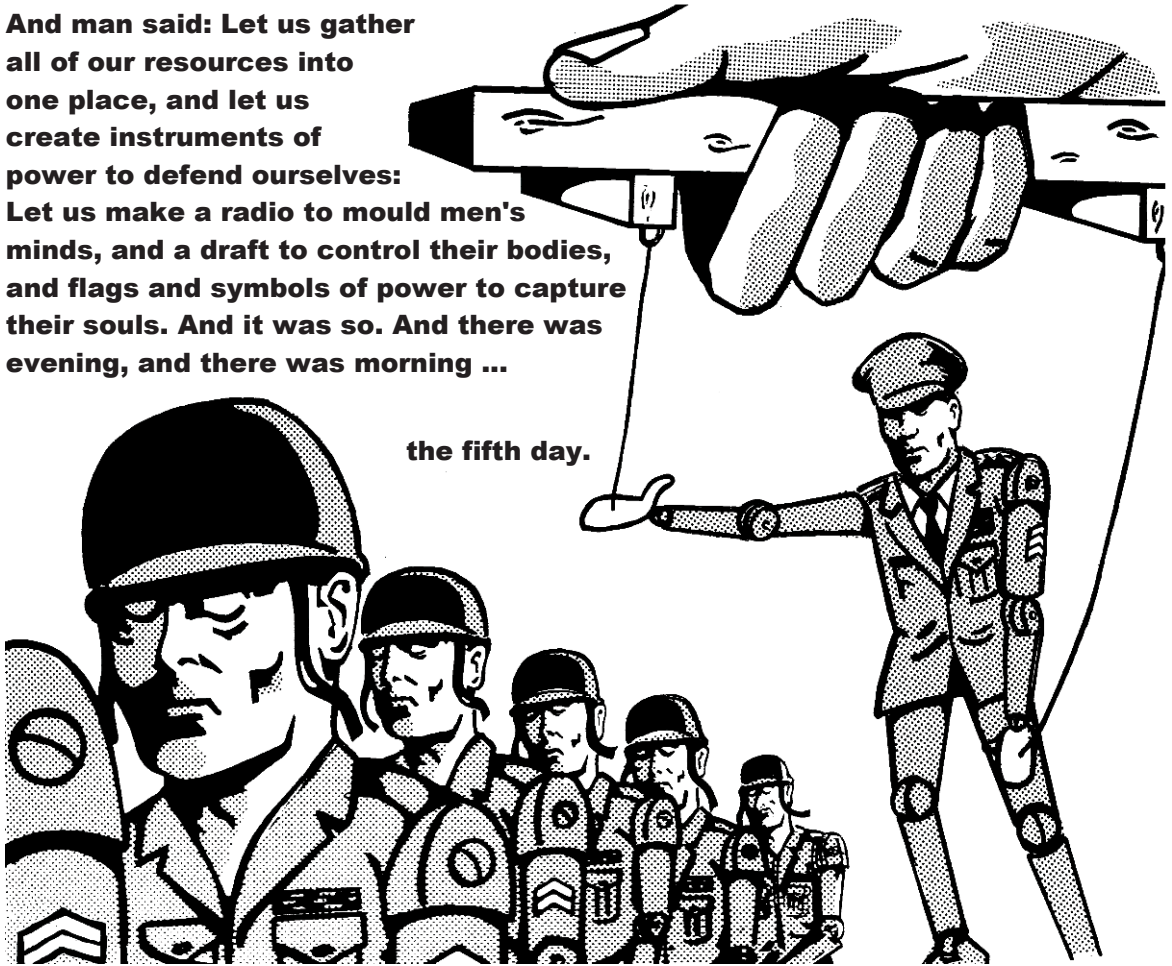


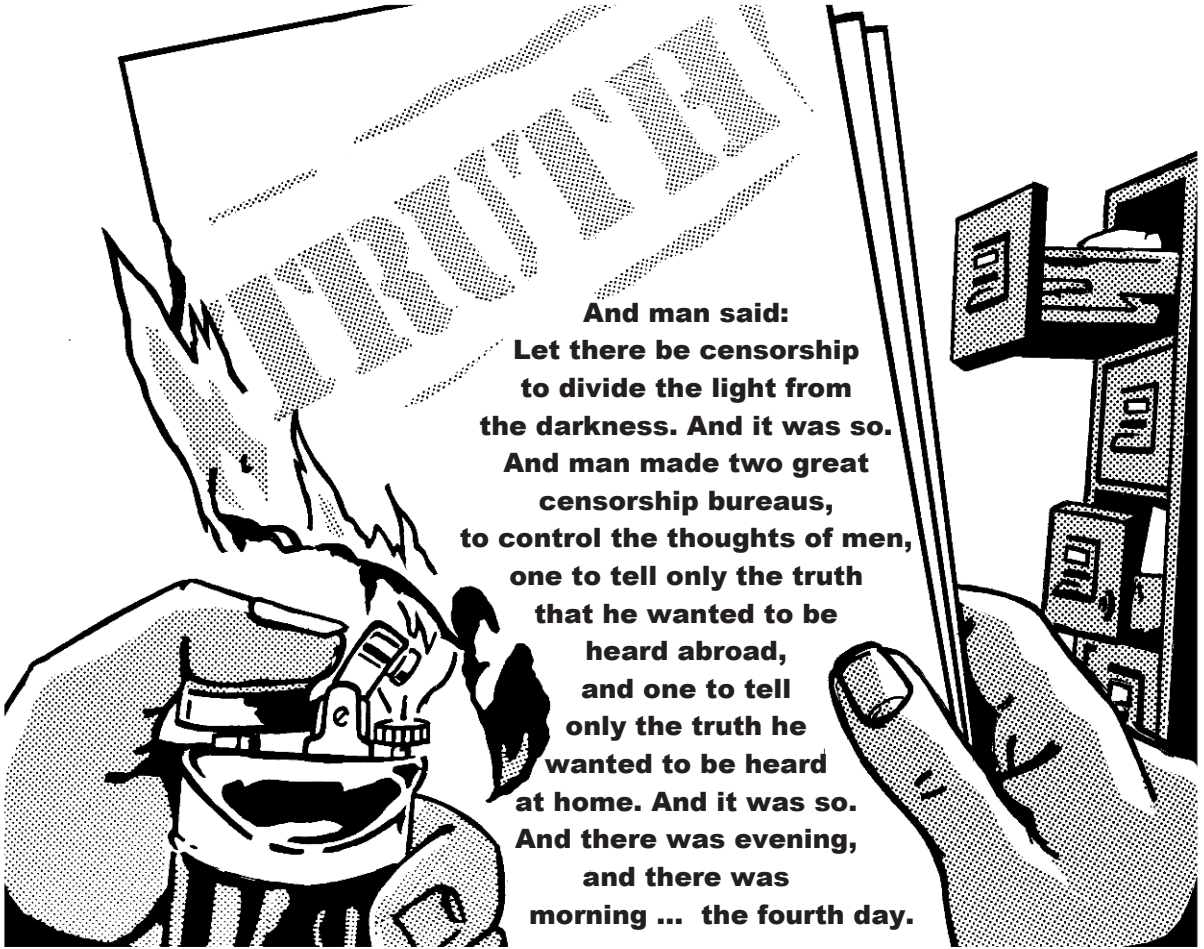
And man said:
Let there be a division among all the peoples of the earth. Let there be a dividing line, or a wall, between those that are for me and those that are against me, and it was so. And there was evening and there was morning ...

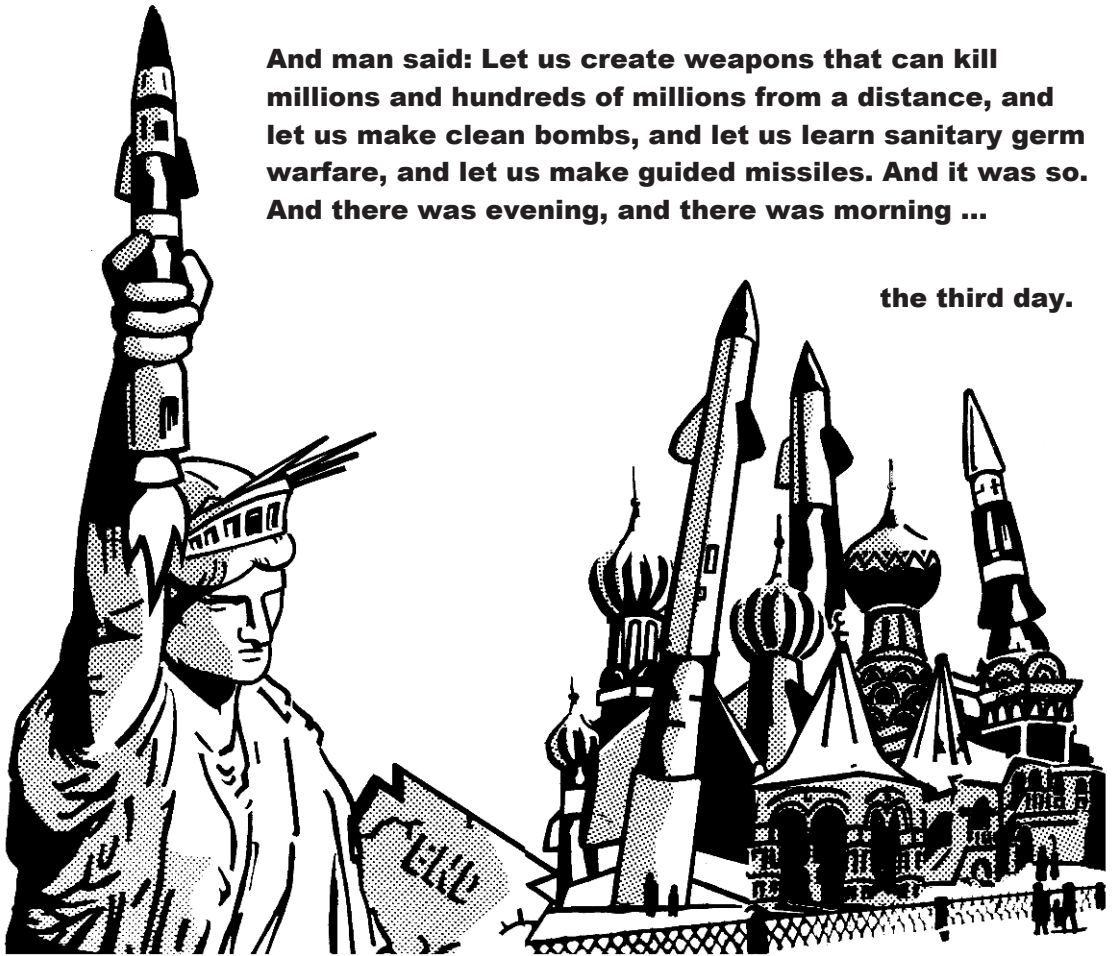
the sixth day.

And man said: Let us gather all of our resources into one place, and let us create instruments of power to defend ourselves: Let us make a radio to mould men's minds, and a draft to control their bodies, and flags and symbols of power to capture their souls. And it was so. And there was evening, and there was morning ...

the fifth day.

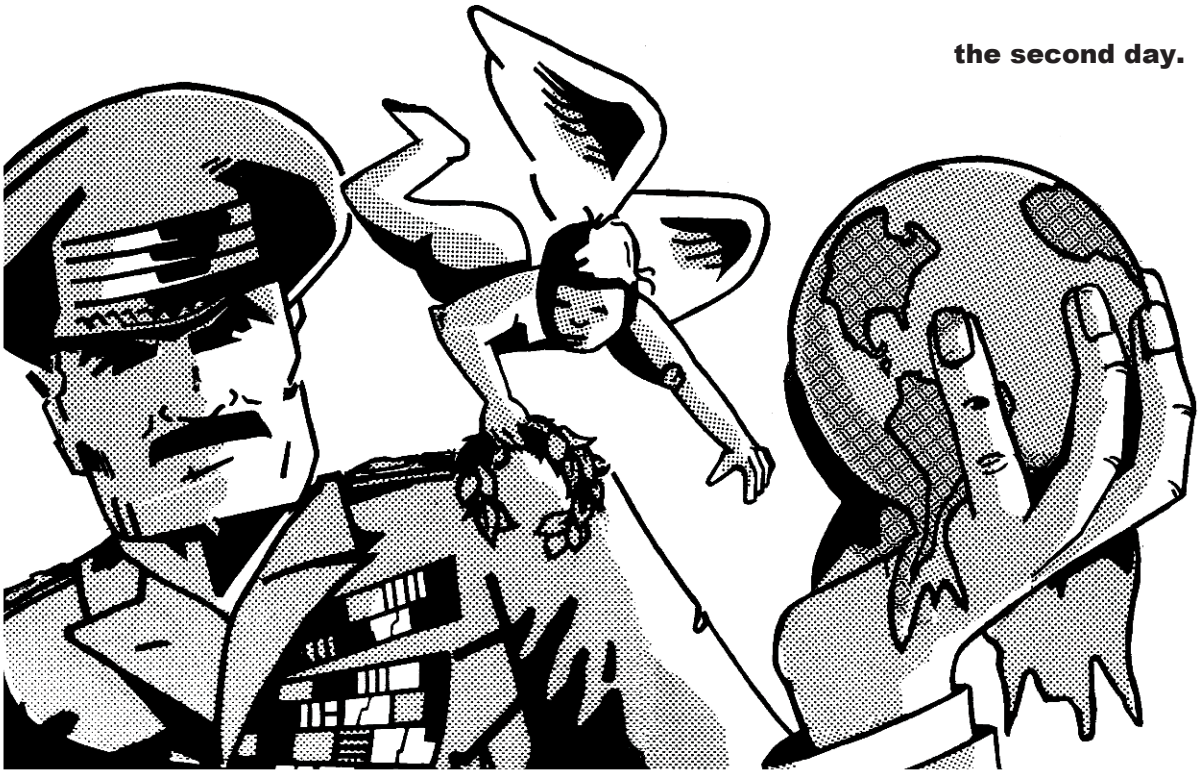


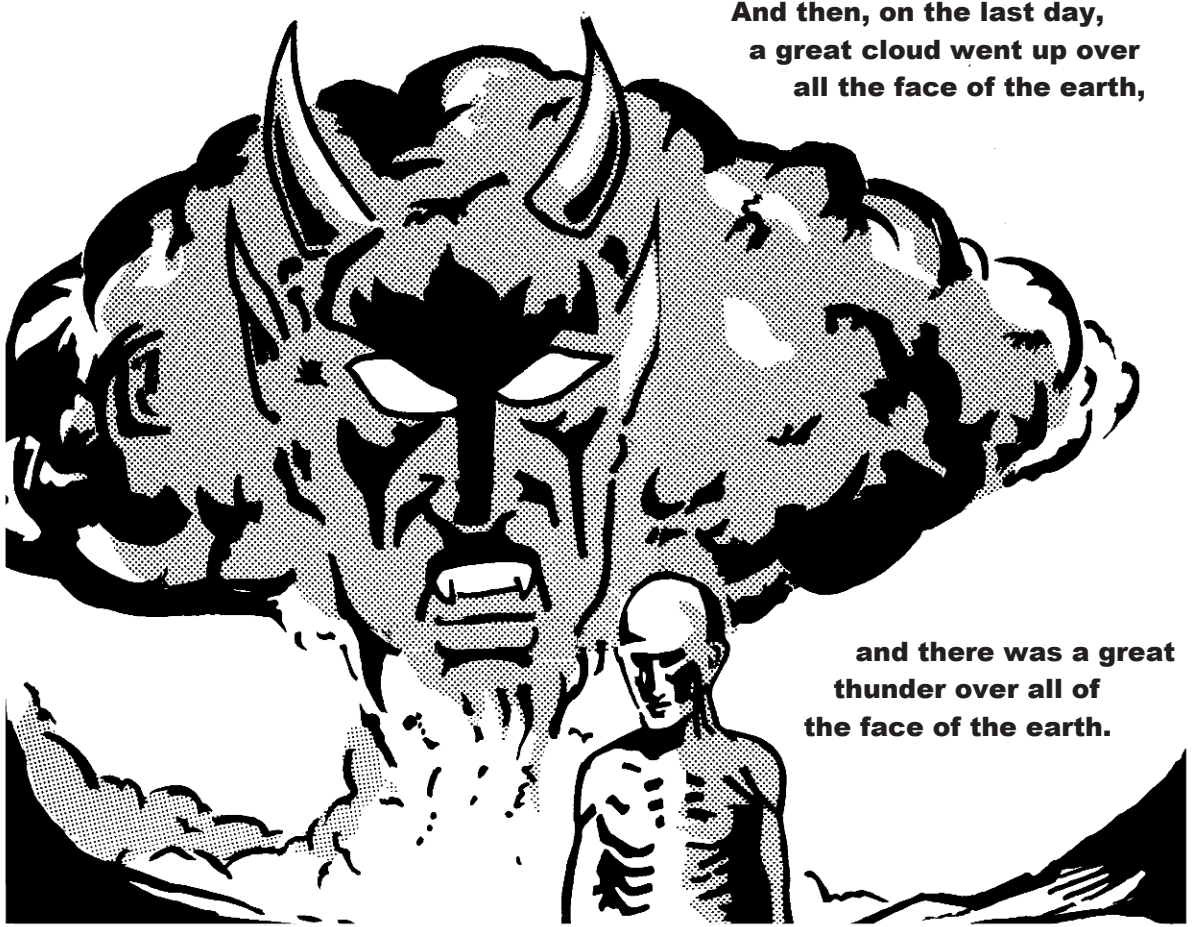

TRUTH
And man said:
Let there be censorship
to divide the light from
the darkness. And it was so.
And man made two great
censorship bureaus,
to control the thoughts of men,
one to tell only the truth
that he wanted to be
heard abroad,
and one to tell
only the truth he
wanted to be heard
at home. And it was so.
And there was evening,
and there was
morning ... the fourth day.

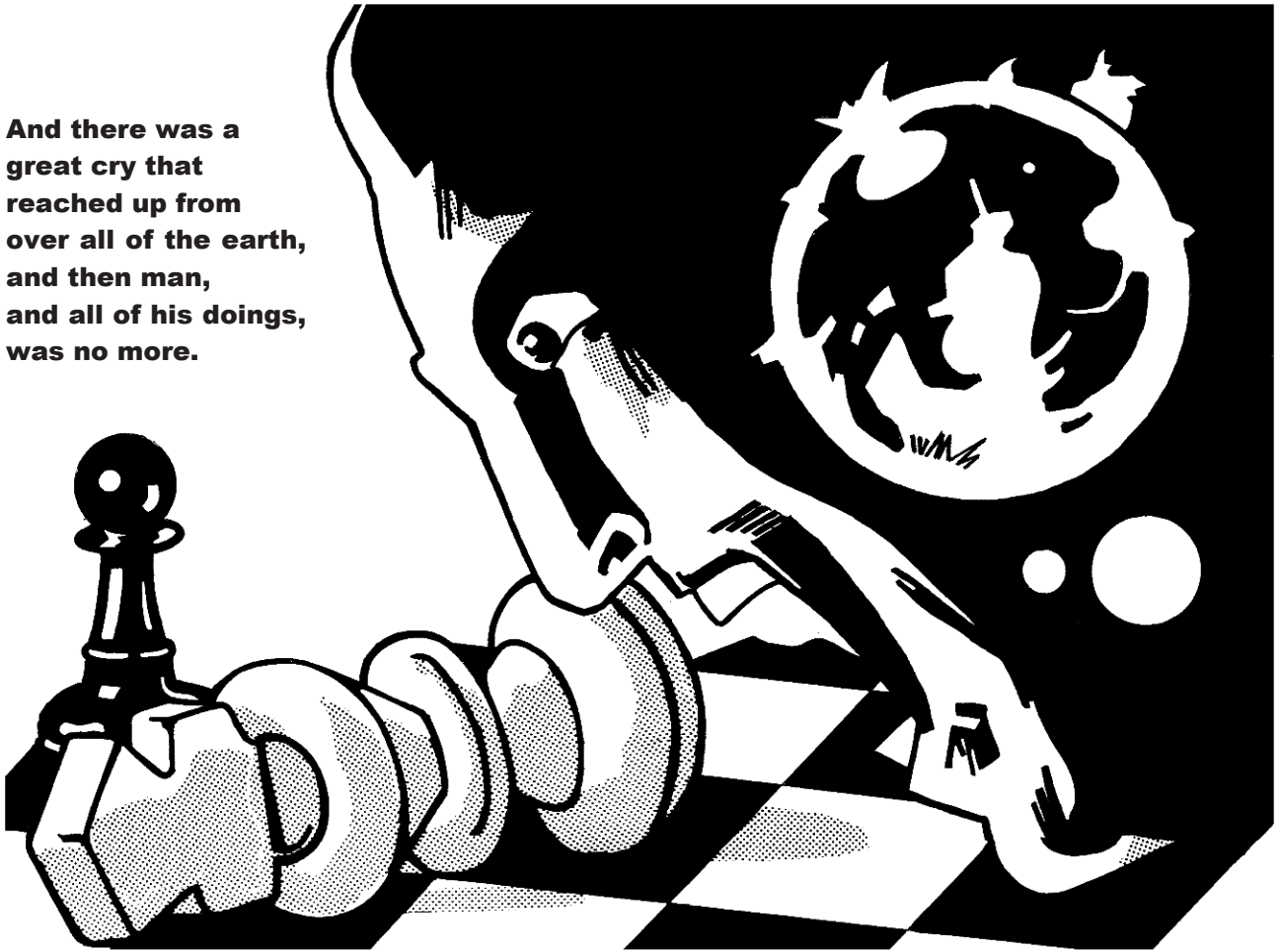

And man said: Let us create weapons that can kill millions and hundreds of millions from a distance, and let us make clean bombs, and let us learn sanitary germ warfare, and let us make guided missiles. And it was so. And there was evening, and there was morning ...
the third day.
END

And man said: Let us make God in our image. Let us say that God thinks what we think, that God wants what we want, that God commands what we want Him to command. And man found ways to kill, with atomic power and with radiation fall-out, those that were living, and those that were not yet born, and he said: This is God's will. And it was so. And there was evening, and there was morning ...

the second day.




And then, on the last day,
a great cloud went up over
all the face of the earth,
and there was a great
thunder over all of
the face of the earth.


And there was a great cry that reached up from over all of the earth, and then man, and all of his doings, was no more.

And the earth rested on the last day from all of man's labours, and the universe was quiet on the last day from all of man's doings, which man in his folly had wrought.



And there was nothing.
There was no more evening,
and there was no more morning ...

there was no more day.



About this short story and the illustrations.

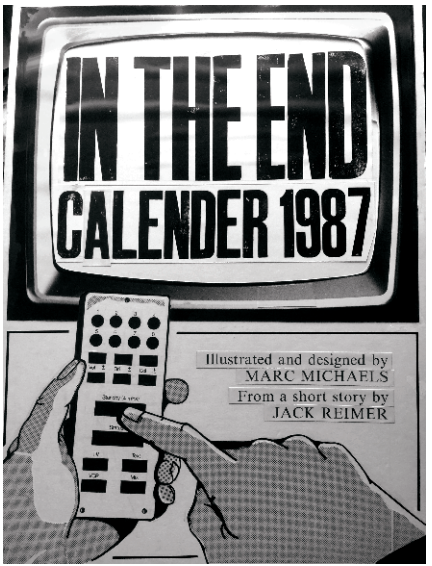
When I was doing my post graduate studies in Graphic Design and Communications at Goldsmith's, my final show in 1987 consisted of various elements. One was an illustrated story of the Golem I had written in verse. The illustrations were down in water colour pencil and designed to be bright and engaging for children.

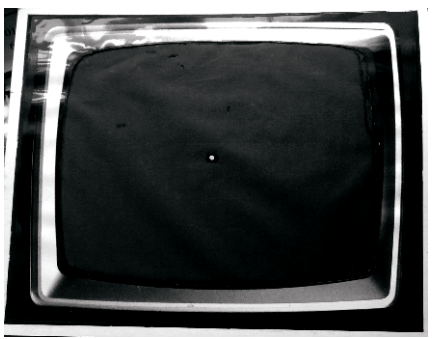
To completely contrast this work, and show that I could command various illustrative styles, I elected to illustrate a short story I had come across purely by accident. The original author is apparently unknown, according to the Jewish Post, Indianapolis, Marion County published on 16 January 1970. However, the version it contains was apparently adapted by Rabbis Jack Riemer and Herman J. Blumberg. At the time I had seen a version by a Jack Riemer but I didn't know at the time that he was a rabbi! In hindsight this make perfect sense, given the biblical parody.

The illustrations were to be very stark matching the message of the story. I was also massively into comics and still am, and that style felt appropriate. The originals were drawn on board with pasted down Letraset dot tone. Yes, we did that B.M. (Before Macs). There was also a sort of moiré pattern to symbolise a kind of interference and poor transmission. I've scanned them in and tidied them up a bit, but have largely left them as they were when I first created them - a message from a the past, as much as the story is.

In the original design, the illustrations all took place inside a quite old fashioned TV set I had photographed and indeed developed and printed out. This suggested that most people would find out about the end of the world 'watching the box'. A remote control on the cover announced a STANDBY button that included the words '4 minutes'. The last page had the little white dot vanishing into the black as televisions used to do that when I was much younger. Nowadays, of course we'll find out on our mobile phones or tablets or through an app push.

Over the years that followed, I toyed with contacting the author and seeing whether I could publish the work with him. However it is very short and, to be honest, the ideas in it around the Cold War were starting to seem remote. Mutually Assured Destruction (MAD)





stopped even the craziest of politicians from playing God. However, recently I've started to see politics and the world go completely bonkers (pandemic aside). So maybe it is time to dust off this tale and put it out there* as a reminder of how things could have been and still could be in a world dominated by greed, pollution, fake news, terrorist atrocities, fear and political posturing, 'them and us' and other artificial human social constructs that do not benefit humans one little bit.

Marc Michaels (Mordechai Pinchas), Sofer Sta"M, 5780/2020.

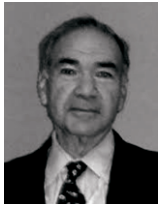
*Even though the original author is unknown and the tale is available freely on line, I have elected to make this a free download from Kulmus Publishing to avoid infringing any copyright.



About the illustrator.

Marc Michaels has spent most of his working life as a marketing communications professional. For 26 years of that he worked for the Central Office of Information (COI), helping run behavioural campaigns that aimed to save and improve people's lives and 'make a real difference'. Marc is also a practicing scribe (*Sofer STa"M*). This involves writing, and restoration work on, sacred manuscripts written on parchment with a feather quill. His scribal website is at www.sofer.co.uk.





About the co-authors.

Rabbi Jack Riemer has helped many people record their values and spiritual legacies through ethical wills, conducting workshops and seminars to offer guidance in this inspiring tradition. A well-known author and speaker, he is rabbi emeritus of Congregation Shaarei Kodesh in Boca Raton, Florida, and founded the National Rabbinic Network, a support system for rabbis across all denominations.

Rabbi Blumberg is rabbi emeritus as Temple Shir Tikva and is a member of the Religious Services and Palliative Care staff at Hebrew Senior Life. His work focuses on counselling patients and families who are facing serious illness and end of life concerns. Rabbi Blumberg is also a spiritual care coordinator at the Hospice of the Good Shepherd, Newton, Massachusetts, and a member of a Community Ethics Committee, affiliated with Harvard Medical School, which deliberates on significant bio-medical ethical questions.

Other books from Kulmus Publishing.

Titles include biblical comedy science fiction spoof *Thoroughly Modern Moses*, free download *The Dot on the Ot* and also *Tam (Simple)*, a book on business ethics based on Psalm 15. The full catalogue is available at: www.kulmus.co.uk.

