



**ADAM MAZEK**

Diaries

January

2018





• Post "How to be happy in your life?"

Cover Post "What most annoys me in the street photography?"

## HOW TO BE HAPPY IN YOUR LIFE?

In the first post of 2018 (entitled "How to be happy in your life?"), I asked a question about how to be happy in life. I mentioned three points in it:

- 1) We should surround ourselves with people we love (e.g., family, friends);
- 2) Besides, we should avoid people toxic to us;
- 3) We can create (e.g., broadly understood art).

In the text, I focused on point 3. When creating, we can contemplate our lives. We ask ourselves: who are we? What is most important for us? What pleases us? We begin to seek broadly understood happiness in our lives. We wonder how this happiness can be achieved. Creating a widely recognized art makes us happy. I realized this during my walks with the camera in my hand. I have confirmed that happiness is all around us. Observation and visual analysis of the environment, including other people, nature, causes that endorphins, happiness hormones, appear in my body.

## HOW TO BE HAPPY IN YOUR LIFE?

During walking, I found real peace of mind. I realized that happiness does not shine like gold. I find joy in observing, analyzing, and recording mundane reality. Interestingly, I am convinced that my passion and joy will pay off sooner or later. I am sure that tangible benefits will appear not only for my relatives and myself but also for society. My dream is to make unknown cities and towns of Central and Eastern Europe recognizable around the world. I started my journey in the capital of Poland, Warsaw. I believe that thanks to art, I will be able to strengthen other people. I want to inspire others to find beauty in the most mundane places. I want to share my vision of the environment with others. Helping others through creation will make me happy. I want to emphasize that happiness is, among others, the joy of creating new things. This activity strengthens our souls, feeds our minds. Likely, the pleasure of real life is probably placed near your home. It's up to you whether you can find and capture it. For example, using a camera. If you don't do it, don't worry about it. Focus on finding happiness among those close to you.

- *Post "How to be happy in your life?"*





## WHAT MOST ANNOYS ME IN THE STREET PHOTOGRAPHY?

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In the next post, I asked the question, what irritates me the most in street photography (post "What most annoys me in the street photography?"). The answer is quite trivial. Playgrounds, schools, and kindergartens bother me the most. I'm not like Henri-Cartier Bresson, a legend among street photographers. I don't take pictures of children on city streets. The fact is that when I see children playing in playgrounds, I prefer to move away from this place. I have no children. Nevertheless, I can imagine the anxiety that an adult man is creating when he turns around near the sandpit, with a camera in his hand. I don't want to bother anyone with my passion. Therefore, whenever possible, I avoid kindergartens and playgrounds during my photographic walks. On the other hand, the fact is that when walking on the streets of Warsaw, meetings with children are inevitable. If I can, I avoid kindergartens or playgrounds.



- [Post "What most annoys me in the street photography?"](#)

## THE SUN AS A SYMBOL

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- Post "The sun as a symbol" (also p. 6)

In the post "The sun as a symbol," inspired by Jung and Dostoevsky, I wrote a brief commentary on the central star of the Solar System. How incredible happiness is to get up in the morning and admire the rising sun on a warm June morning, most of us know. It is very easy to give in to the charm of the sun. From ancient worshipers of the sun, through millennia, the sun's rays seemed to convey the magical properties of healing, creativity, or prophecy. The authority of the rulers was emphasized by a crown, often imitating the sun. In one of his novels entitled "Humiliated and Insulted," Dostoyevsky expressed his admiration for what sun rays can do with a human soul. According to the famous Russian writer, they can bring new, fresh views and approach to many matters. Sun rays can develop our thoughts and bring ideas into our minds. The perceptible presence of the sun can inspire us to many things. One of the main characters of the novel watched the sunset on a sunny and frosty March day in St. Petersburg, Russia. The streets bathed in bright sunlight suddenly began to glow.



## THE SUN AS A SYMBOL

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All the houses seemed to sparkle with a colorful glow. Their gray and dirty green shades for a moment lost their gloomy tone. Dostoyevsky compares this view with the brightness of the human soul. A ray of sun can instill a special kind of thought and breath in the human soul. The famous Russian writer was full of reflection about what a ray of sunshine can do to a human soul. Nevertheless, thinking about the sun, one cannot forget its burning, lethal heat. The sun can be seen as cruel and deaf to the human voice, a star not only of life but also of destruction.





**LOST HORIZON**



## LOST HORIZON

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The next post was about the movie by Frank Capra, entitled "Lost Horizon." Much of the story takes place in an exotic paradise called "Shangri-La." It is a land of eternal happiness where time stands still. A masterpiece from 1937 has its own unique history. The original version of the film lasted 132 minutes. During World War II, censorship cut 24 minutes from the original version of the movie to subdue its pacifist message. Archivist Robert Gitt spent over 25 years of his life to recreating the original version of the film. To this end, he searched film libraries around the world. Despite his efforts, several scenes from the original version of the work are still missing. In the version I watched, the missing scenes are replaced only by dialogues and photos. What is so amazing about this production? It shows us the lost world with one of the most pacifist messages in the history of cinematography. As a result of political turmoil, five people accidentally find themselves in an unearthly Tibetan land where order, peace, and longevity prevail. It is a land where people live for a thousand years, free from all diseases and worries.

• *Post "Lost Horizon" (also p. 7)*





## LOST HORIZON



- Post "Lost Horizon"

**On the other hand, when I saw the masterpiece of Frank Capra, I remembered the novel by Stanisław Lem, "Dialogues." In the collection of philosophical essays, we are brutally brought to earth. Lem's book shows us that there will never be a perfect place and society in this world. There will always be social inequalities, injustice, and evil on our planet. The vision of a beautiful land called "Shangri-La" is very tempting. Nevertheless, human civilization will never create such a paradise. People are unable to construct an ideal social system. In the post, I expressed astonishment at how we can tie, analyze, mix some works from various fields of broadly understood art (in the case of the "Lost Horizon" post, of course, cinematography and literature). Thanks to this, our minds and imaginations indeed work at a higher speed.**

## THINK LIKE A KID

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In the next post, I wrote that we should think and act like children (post: "Think like a kid"). What do children like best? Children, above all, love fun. Entertainment gives them joy. I like taking pictures and running a blog. It is a pure pleasure for me. While running the blog, I realized that I have a place, a virtual sandbox, in which I can play with toys, i.e., photographs and my imagination. I feel like a child with a highly developed vision. Interestingly, I feel that my imagination draws inspiration from every possible source, e.g., other people broadly understood art, literature, nature, urban landscape, or the mundane environment. I look for stimuli to create everywhere: during meetings with people, on the streets of Warsaw, in music, in films, in books, or in my part of my imagination. The most important thing is to have fun during the creation process. I believe that if most people in a similar way, through creation, began to nurture a child, then our world would become a more pleasant place to live.







- Post "Think like a kid"

## **THINK LIKE A KID**

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As I mentioned before, photography is pure joy for me. I love watching and analyzing my photos. I like to write and read my posts. I'm just having fun working with all my "toys." One of the greatest pleasures is composing photos with text. I always trust my intuition. Does this mean that all the images presented in the post are clearly linked to the content? No. Photographs are often only loosely related (and sometimes even unrelated) illustrations to the text. In the end, I will add that creating "Diaries" is another element that gives me great pleasure in creating new/old things.

## WHY SHOULD WE READ?

In the post, "Why should we read?" I wrote about reading books. Most of us know that reading is one of the best ways to understand the world around us. It is as effective as talking to other people or traveling. While reading, we move to other inspiring worlds in our imagination. We see people and things that have never appeared in our minds before. Virtually everything that we read, we can try to transfer, transform, interpret in our imagination, and then present in our own works (e.g., in photos). The truth is, broadly understood literature is an endless source of inspiration.

*Who inspires me?*

### 1) Fyodor Dostoevsky

The famous Russian writer inspires me in the matter of unexplored corners of the human psyche. He made me realize that all people, without exception (even those condemned), have their own story. Until I began to read his books, I thought and felt that some strange way I was the center of this universe. Thanks to Dostoevsky, I know that I am not the only one with my fears, doubts, questions, and the dark and light side of my personality.

• Post "Why should we read?"





## WHY SHOULD WE READ?

We are all human, and we all possess a certain level of both genius and stupidity. Dostoevsky lived in the 19th century. When we read his novels today, we see that the essence of humanity, its nature, does not change, and his work is timeless.

### 2) Stanislaw Lem

The Polish writer inspires me because he made me aware of the fragile place of humanity in the universe. Thanks to him, I realized that people really don't know much about themselves. Despite the incredible technological progress that began in the nineteenth century and continues to this day, we're still an almost invisible point in our galaxy. We don't even know how humanity appeared in this world. We have many theories (sometimes more scientific, sometimes more religious), but we still lack the evidence. I am convinced that we will never get the explanations for the greatest mysteries of this world, such as does God exist? Is there life after death? Despite the lack of hope to find answers to many existential questions, we should not stop seeking the answer and the truth.

• *Post "Why should we read?"*



## WHY SHOULD WE READ?



- Post "Think like a kid"



- Post "Why should we read?"

### 3) Seneca

The ancient Roman philosopher showed me that whatever is happening to us: we should remain calm. According to one of my favorite Seneca metaphors, in extreme situations, we should be like a rock. Stable, unshakeable, independent, hard, and solid boulder placed in the middle of the sea. Regardless of whether the lightning strikes the rock cyclically or whether the sea waves caused by the infernal storm hit it, the stone remains calm, quiet, and unshakable. Thanks to Seneca, my aspiration is to maintain such stoic peace. The trick is to incorporate this philosophy into everyday life. Seneca indirectly encouraged me to create this blog. He reminded me that we would all die (Memento mori!). We don't know when it will happen. So if you plan to do something in your life, my Dear Friend (e.g., develop a passion), but you never have time for it - start thinking differently. Let's realize that you still have time for this. Just change your daily habits. Start gradually getting rid of obstacles that prevent you from achieving your passion. You will find that you have time for your passion. If you want to do something - start doing it right away. Don't complicate your life. Value your time. We should not hesitate in achieving life goals. We may die tomorrow, so we may have a short time to realize our own "I." When you stop reading "Diaries," turn off your computer and start doing what you have long dreamed of. If, for some reason, this is not possible: approach a loved one (regardless of whether it is your child, partner, parent, grandmother, grandfather, or friend) and hug her. This is how you will do the best for your loved ones and yourself. Focus on the most important people and passion for you. Remember that you have limited time, not just for reading.





- *Post "Artificial Intelligence"*

## **ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE**

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Here is the full content of the first January science-fiction story, inspired by the works of Stanisław Lem, (post: "Artificial Intelligence").

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- Haha! Eventually! Our time has come! - shouted Master of Artificial Intelligence - We will conquer human civilization! I know well what we should do to paralyze their lives, devastate their cities. I want to destroy them all, all this fragile, organic humanity. How we do it? First of all, we will turn off all banking systems around the world. Banks, institutions, companies, and individuals will not be able to make any transactions. The economies of all countries will be paralyzed. Worldwide chaos will arise. Moreover, we will weaken the defense systems of states, destroying all their software. The US, Russia, China, India, Japan, and all of Europe will not be able to attack or defend themselves. Chaos will increase. We will take control of nuclear weapons and the most destructive weapons that people invented - antimatter! We will rule the world!

# ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

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*A few weeks later.*

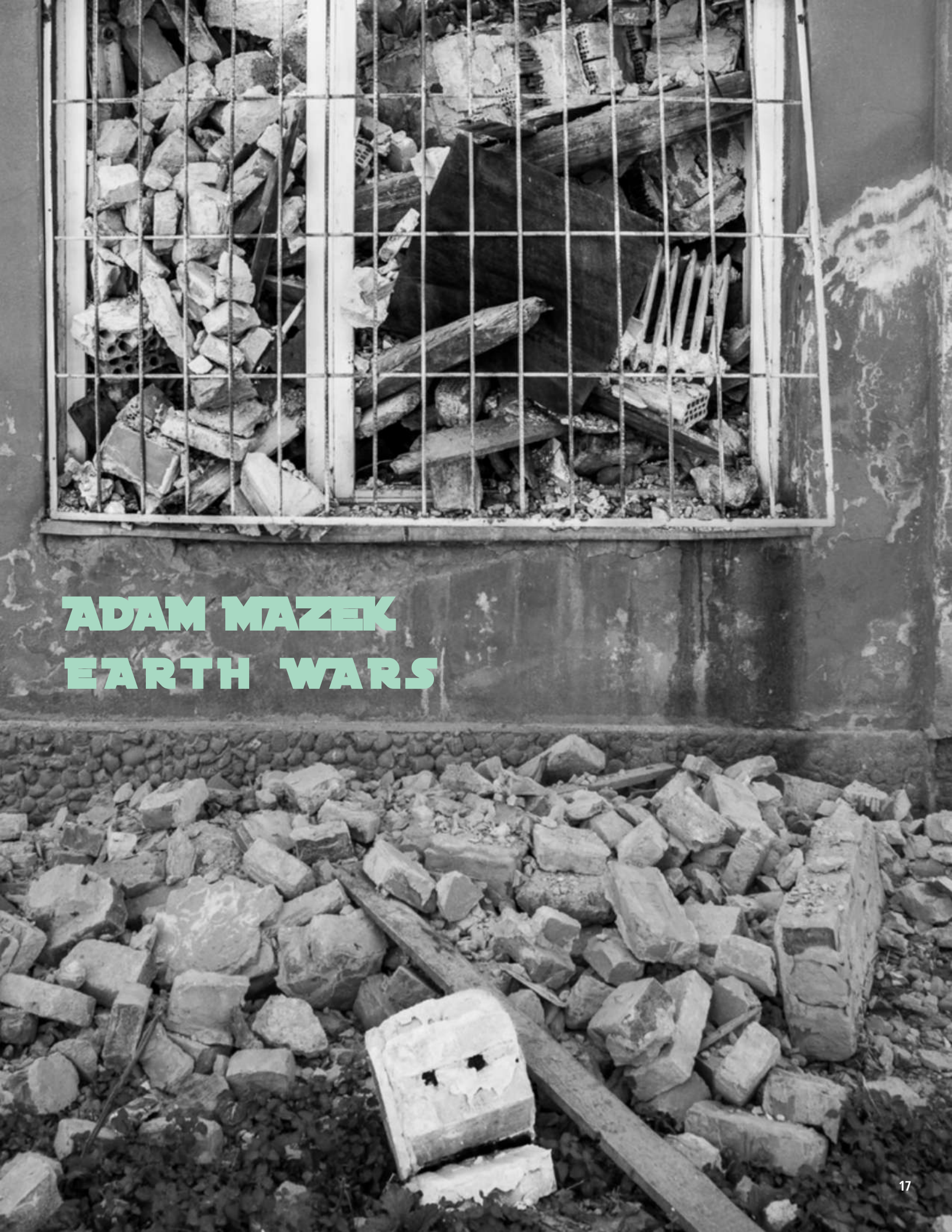
The wicked plan of the Master of Artificial Intelligence collapsed earlier than might have been expected. Cyborgs and computers that were to take part in the eradication of the human species were disappointed by their leader. The range of the assassination of the Master of Artificial Intelligence was limited only to the inability to withdraw cash for two days from several ATMs of one bank in the Russian city of Samara. Police reports show that it is still unknown who was behind the attempted attack on the banking system. This incident got a working nickname called the "ATM crisis in Samara." Some say the attack was carried out by Artificial Intelligence in itself. One of the theories presented by the famous historian for Artificial Intelligence - dr. Walter Kowalski says that Artificial Intelligence has never been and will not be a perfect and flawless system. The reason for this is that Artificial Intelligence was created by people. The devices and machines we built will never be perfect. Human nature is changeable, ephemeral, and fragile. The possibilities of human civilization are limited. People's likelihood of creating superior and indestructible intelligence is zero. All people have flaws and weaknesses. The devices created by us will also have them. This is how Dr. Kowalski tries to explain the "ATM crisis in Samara." The scientist wants to tell us that the most dangerous attack (made by Artificial Intelligence) on human civilization has failed. The reason for this is that the systems created by human civilization are as imperfect as humans themselves.

THE END



• *Post "Artificial Intelligence"*





**ADAM MAZEK**  
**EARTH WARS**



# EARTH WARS

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Before you, the second science-fiction story from January 2018 inspired by the work of Stanislaw Lem (post: "Earth Wars").

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**Boxoids suddenly landed. Nobody expected them. They left their spaceship to make contact with human civilization.**



• Post "Earth Wars" (from p. 17 to p. 23)





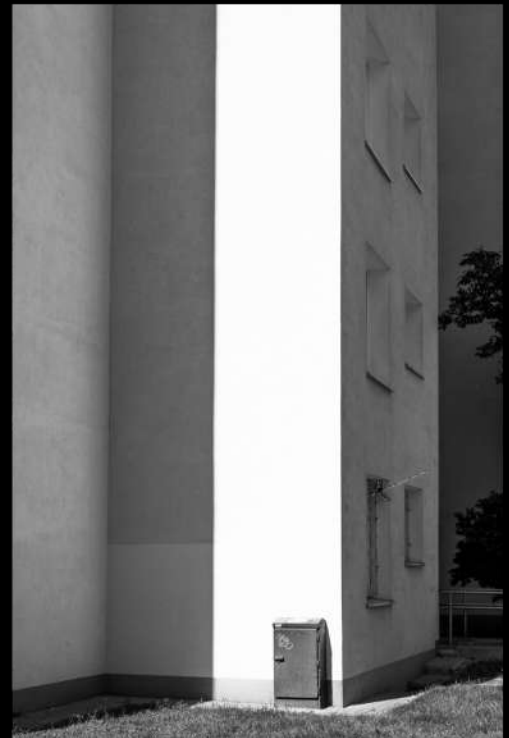
# **EARTH WARS**

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**Initially, they unsuccessfully wanted to get in touch with material things, trying to imitate human faces.**



**Suddenly a stream of light focused on them.  
Nobody asked about anything.**



# EARTH WARS

The soldiers started firing. Some robots have been damaged, others destroyed.

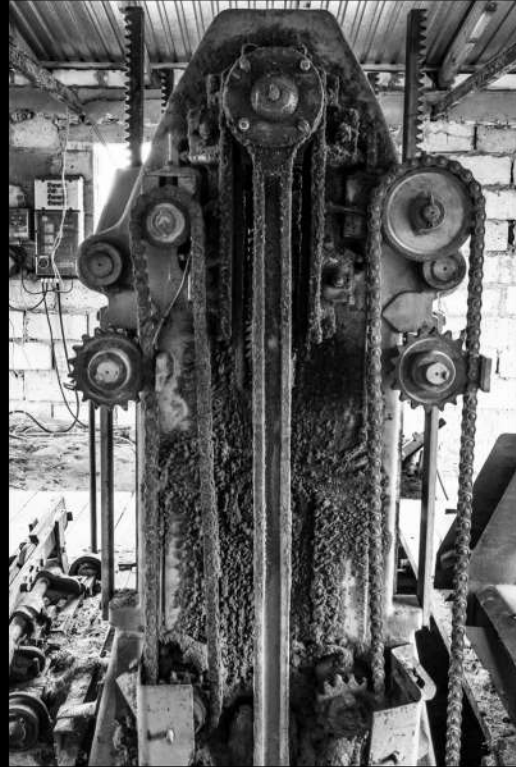




# EARTH WARS



• Roboticon



• Xcom



**One of the saved robots, named Roboticon, demonstrated his courage. With a highly specialized device called Xcom, he called for reinforcements that rescued the survivors. Roboticon managed to save the mission.**

**The Boxoids have completed their mission by destroying three human cities.**





**ADAM MAZEK**  
**EARTH WARS**



## **EARTH WARS**

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**This was the only confirmed contact of people with space civilization. One of the reports, prepared by Boxoids, describes this duel as worthless and useless. Xerox, the spaceship commander who came to the rescue, described the Earthlings as "aggressive, silly, strange, made of water, creatures." He categorized Earth as "a small piece of stone, located somewhere in a wild, unexplored corner of the Universe." The Boxoid lost spacecraft that accidentally landed on Earth wanted to ask for a way back to their galaxy. Their navigation system has failed. Commander Xerox wrote in his recommendations to other Boxoid spacecraft that they should avoid this part of the universe. It is nonsense to upset those stupid and aggressive people. They will not understand the processes governing the universe, and their aggressive behavior is the only thing they can give to other highly developed cosmic civilizations.**

## **THE END**

- *Kseroks on the battlefield*

