

An aerial photograph of a city grid, showing a dense pattern of streets and buildings. The image is darkened and has a semi-transparent black overlay where the text is placed. The text is in a bold, white, italicized sans-serif font.

***Better Living  
through  
Science Fiction  
Vanessa White***

# *whoami*

- *Vanessa White*
- *Mac Evangelist & Software Support Engineer at PaperCut*
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***What is this talk?***

***We're gonna hijack memes from  
Science Fiction and use them to  
hack your wetware.***

***For good. I promise.***

# ***Referenced Materials***

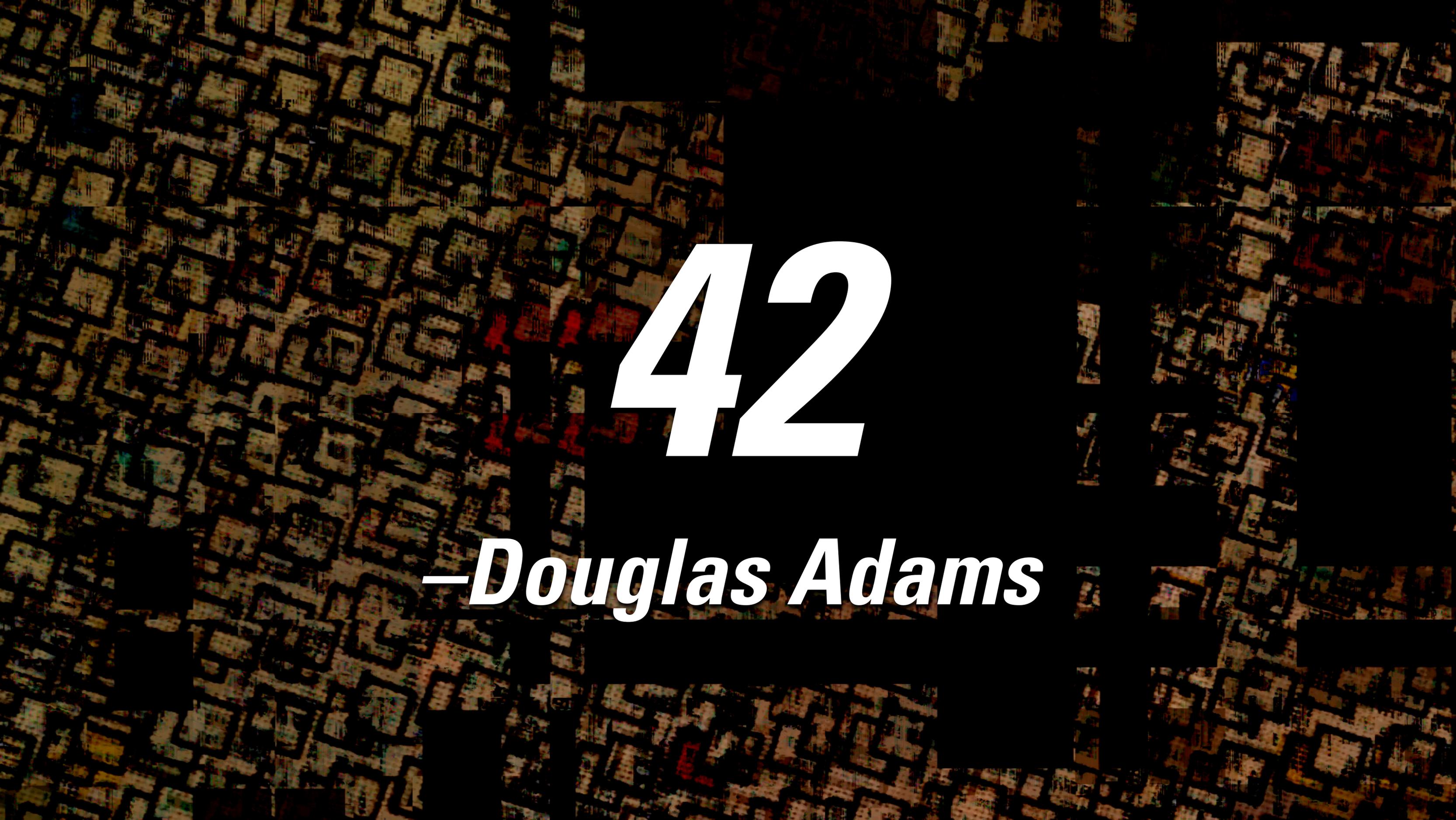
- ***Star Trek: TOS and TNG***
- ***Star Wars***
- ***The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy series***
- ***Dune***
- ***Aliens***
- ***The Dark Tower series by Stephen King***
- ***The Left Hand of Darkness by Ursula K. LeGuin***
- ***The Mars Trilogy by Kim Stanley Robinson***
- ***Lord of Light by Roger Zelazny***

# *Themes*

- *Useful Maxims: 3 handy Laws (not from Asimov)*
- *Acceptance: accept, adapt, thrive*
- *Know yourself*
- *Other Minds, the issue of*

An aerial photograph of a city's street grid, viewed from a high angle. The streets are dark, and the buildings are a mix of light and dark colors. A dark, semi-transparent overlay is applied to the image, particularly in the center and right side, creating a moody atmosphere. The text 'Unusable Memes' is overlaid in a large, white, italicized font across the middle of the image.

# *Unusable Memes*

An aerial photograph of a city grid, showing a dense pattern of streets and buildings. The image is dark, with a prominent horizontal black band across the center. The text is overlaid on this band.

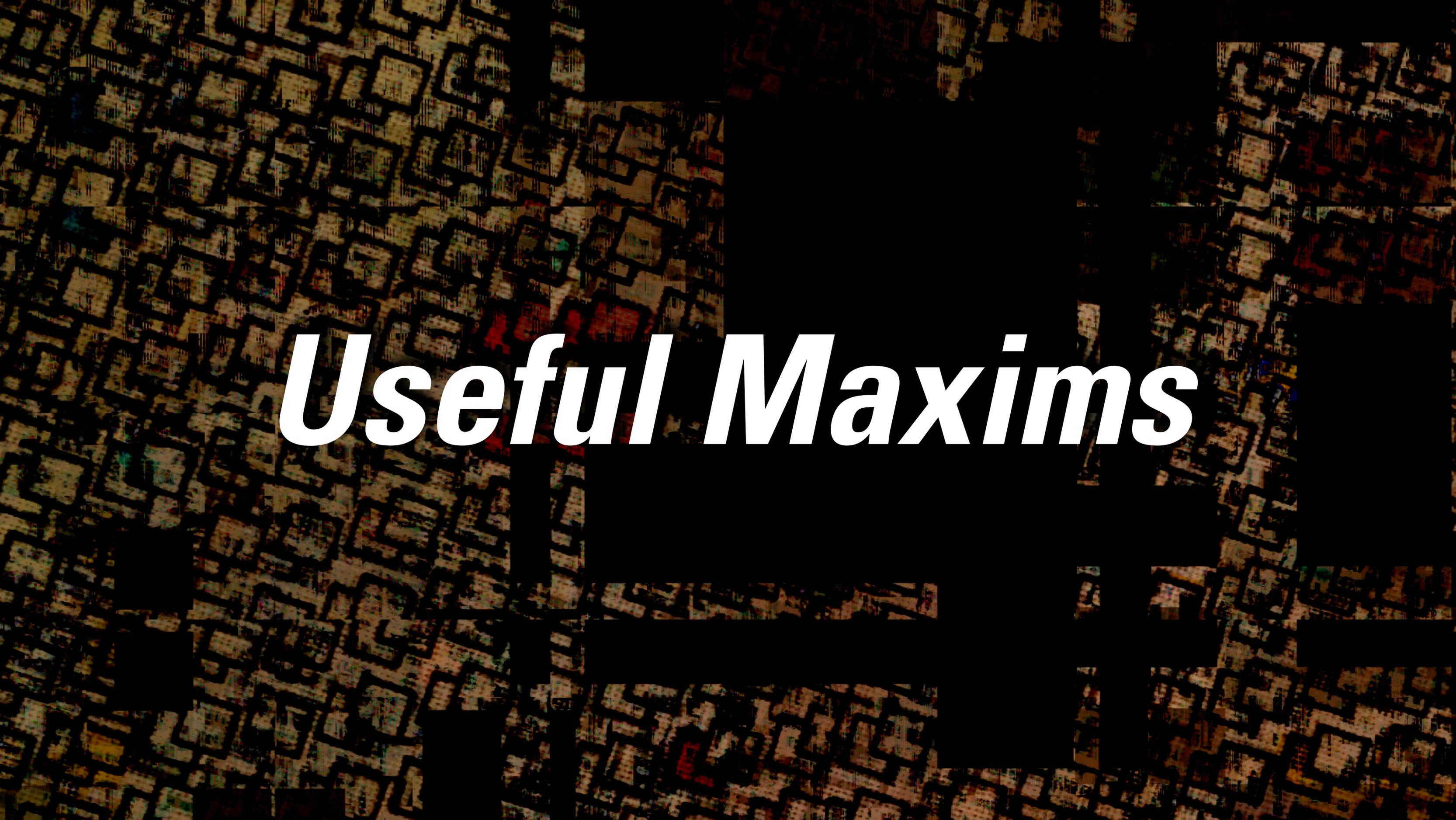
**42**

***–Douglas Adams***



***“Revenge is a dish  
best served cold.”***

***–Ancient Klingon Proverb***

An aerial photograph of a city's street grid, showing a dense pattern of buildings and roads. The image is darkened and has a semi-transparent black overlay, making the text stand out prominently in the center.

# ***Useful Maxims***

# ***The 3 Laws***

***Heinlein's Razor***

***Clarke's Third Law***

***Wheaton's Law***

# *Heinlein's Razor*

*"Never attribute to malice that which can be adequately explained by stupidity, but don't rule out malice."*

# *Clarke's Third Law*

*“Any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic.”*

# ***Wheaton's Law***

***"Don't be a dick."***

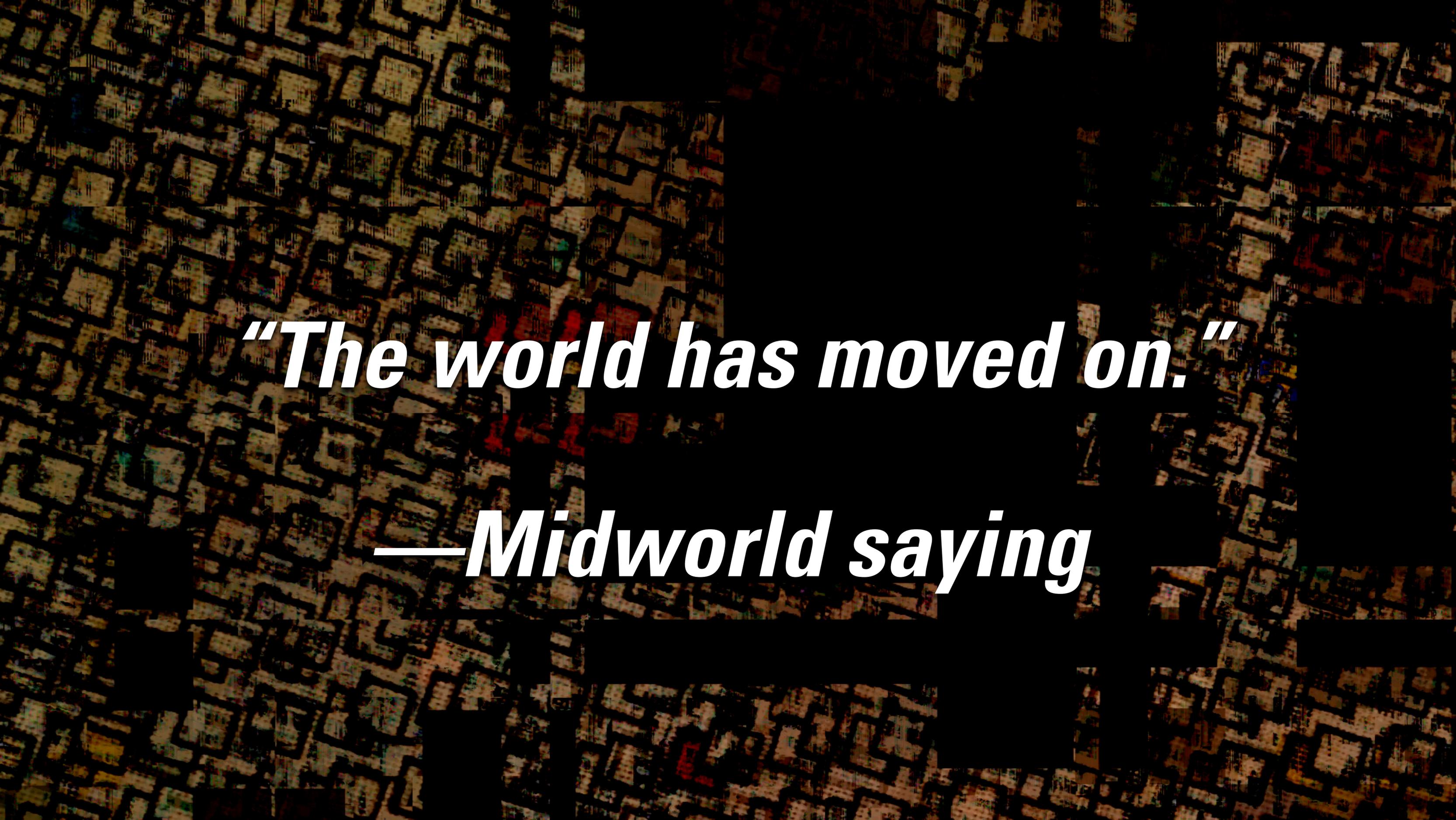
The background is a high-angle, aerial photograph of a city's street grid. The streets are tightly packed and form a complex, somewhat irregular pattern of squares and rectangles. The colors are muted, with shades of brown, tan, and grey, suggesting older buildings and paved streets. A dark, semi-transparent horizontal band runs across the middle of the image, serving as a backdrop for the text.

***Acceptance***

An aerial photograph of a city street grid, viewed from a high angle. The streets are dark, and the buildings are a mix of light and dark colors. A dark, semi-transparent rectangular area is overlaid on the center of the image, containing white text. The text is in a bold, italicized font.

***“Resistance is futile.”***

***–the Borg***

An aerial photograph of a city's street grid, showing a dense pattern of streets and buildings. The image is dark, with a prominent horizontal black band across the middle. The text is overlaid on this band.

***“The world has moved on.”***

***—Midworld saying***



***“The Spice must flow!”***

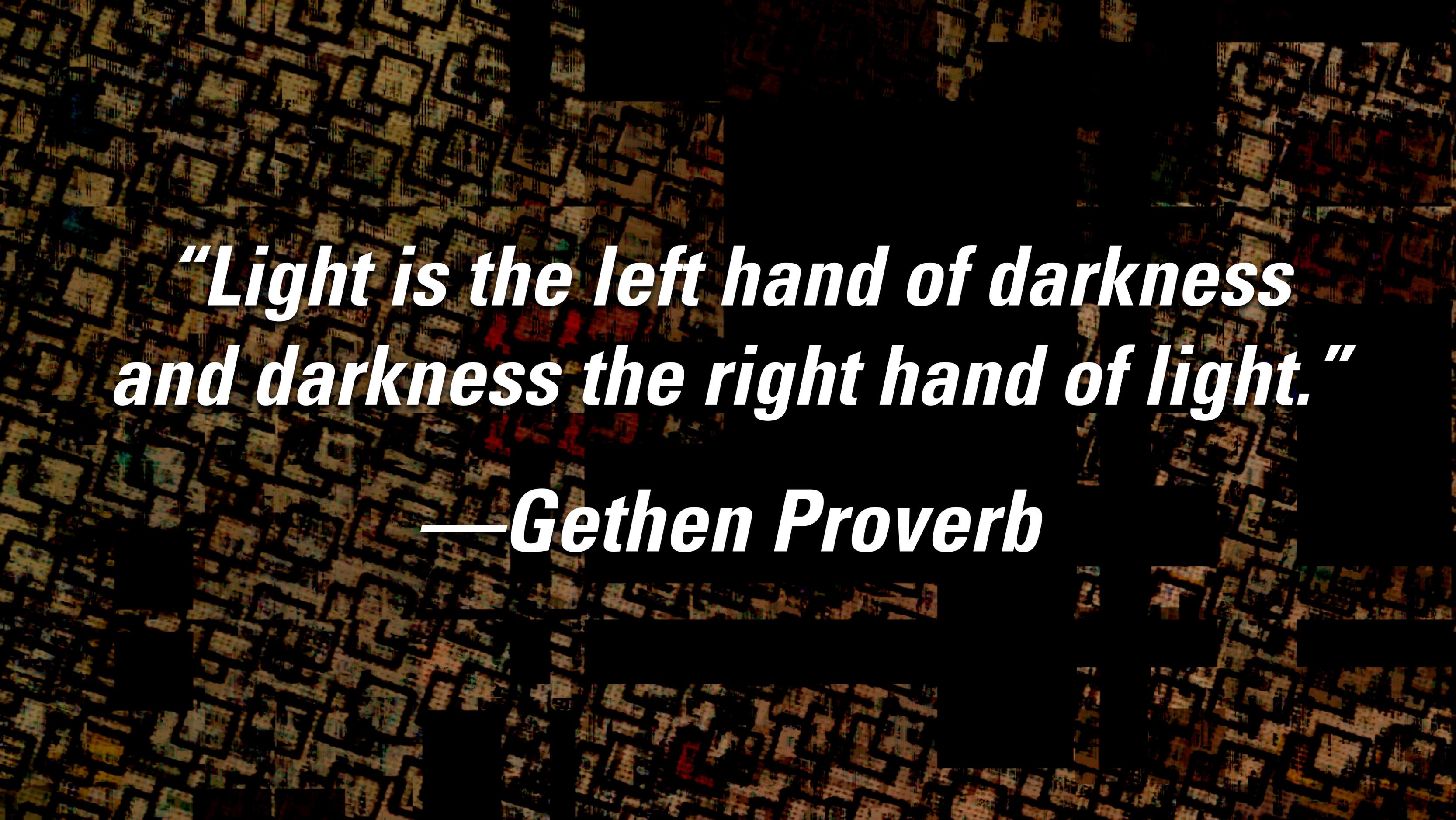
***–Pretty much everyone in Dune***

***“Shikatta ga nai.”***

***–Issei Martians, KSR’s Mars Trilogy***

An aerial photograph of a city's street grid, showing a dense pattern of buildings and roads. The image is overlaid with a dark, semi-transparent grid pattern that aligns with the city's streets, creating a layered, architectural effect. The colors are muted, with browns, greys, and dark blues dominating the palette.

***Know Yourself***

An aerial photograph of a city's street grid, viewed from a high angle. The streets are dark and form a complex, interconnected pattern of squares and rectangles. The overall color palette is dark, with shades of black, brown, and grey, giving it a moody and somewhat abstract appearance.

***“Light is the left hand of darkness  
and darkness the right hand of light.”***

***—Gethen Proverb***

***"His followers called him Mahasamamatman and said he was a god. He preferred to drop the Maha- and the -atman, however, and called himself Sam. He never claimed to be a god. But then, he never claimed not to be a god. Circumstances being what they were, neither admission could be of any benefit."***

***—Opening paragraph***

# ***Litany Against Fear***

***I must not fear.***

***Fear is the mind-killer.***

***Fear is the little-death that brings total obliteration.***

***I will face my fear.***

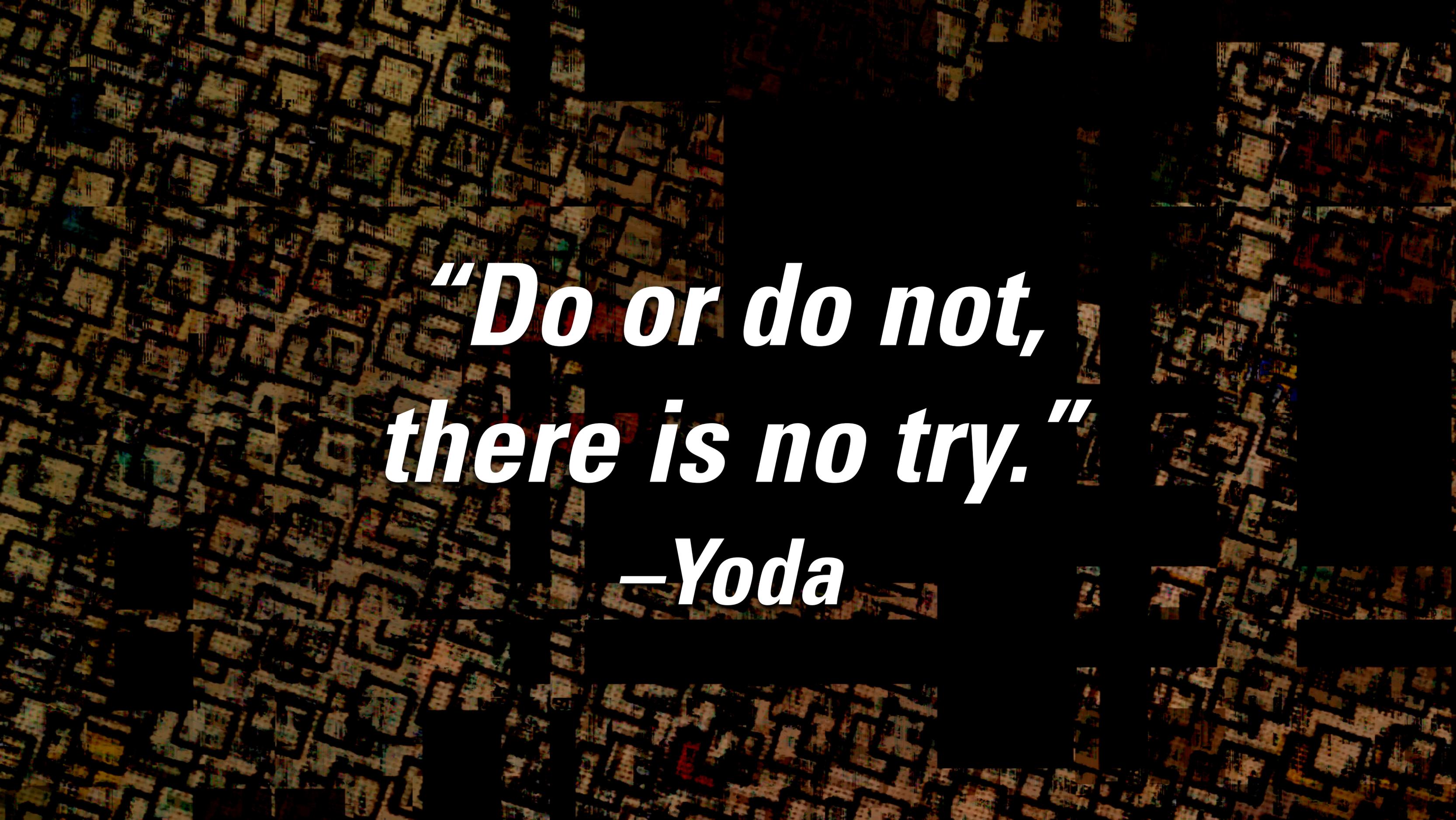
***I will permit it to pass over me and through me.***

***And when it has gone past I will turn  
the inner eye to see its path.***

***Where the fear has gone there will be nothing...***

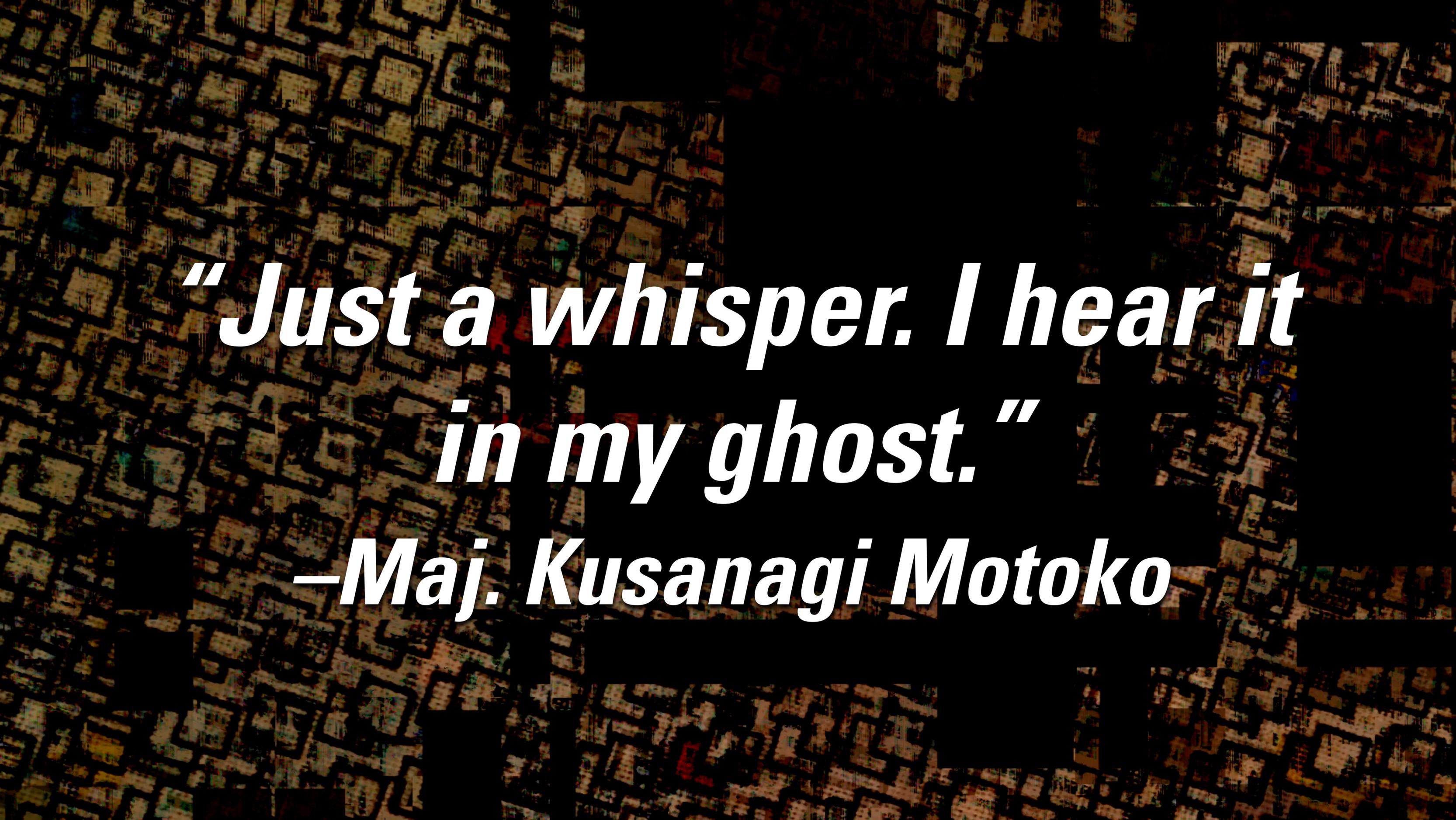
***only I will remain***

***—Frank Herbert, Dune***

An aerial photograph of a city with a dense, walled grid pattern, likely Jerusalem. The image is dark and grainy, with a black rectangular area in the center containing white text.

***“Do or do not,  
there is no try.”***

***–Yoda***

An aerial photograph of a city's street grid, showing a dense pattern of rectangular blocks. The image is darkened and has a semi-transparent black overlay where the text is placed. The text is in a bold, white, italicized sans-serif font.

***“Just a whisper. I hear it  
in my ghost.”***

***–Maj. Kusanagi Motoko***

An aerial photograph of a city's street grid, viewed from a high angle. The streets are dark, and the buildings are a mix of light and dark colors. A dark, semi-transparent overlay covers the entire image, making the text stand out.

***“You keep what you kill.”***

***–Necromonger philosophy***

The background is an aerial photograph of a city's street grid, showing a dense pattern of buildings and roads. The image is overlaid with a dark, semi-transparent grid pattern that aligns with the city's layout. The text 'Other Minds' is centered in a white, bold, italicized font.

# *Other Minds*



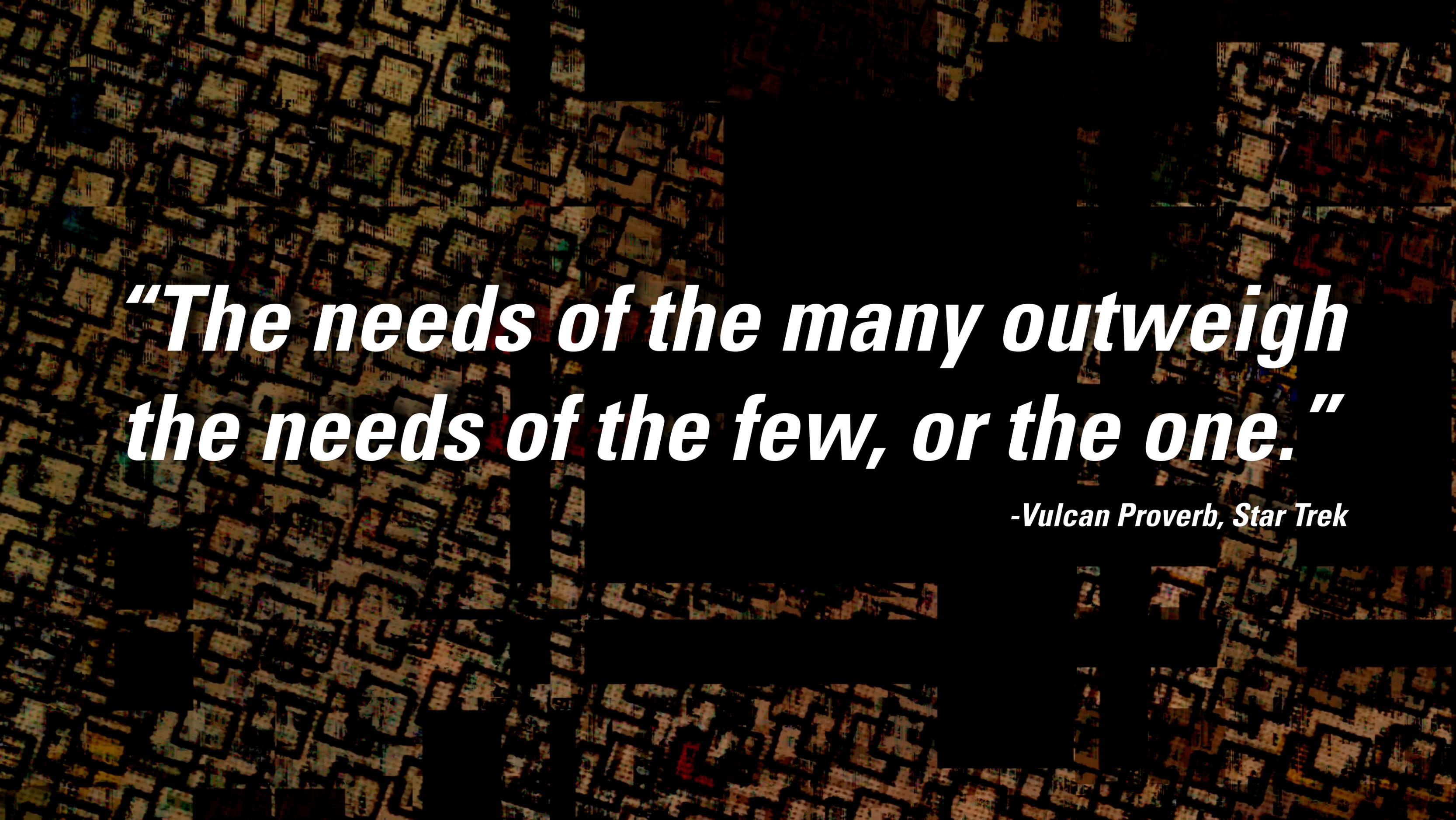
***Don't Panic.***

***-HHGG, Douglas Adams***



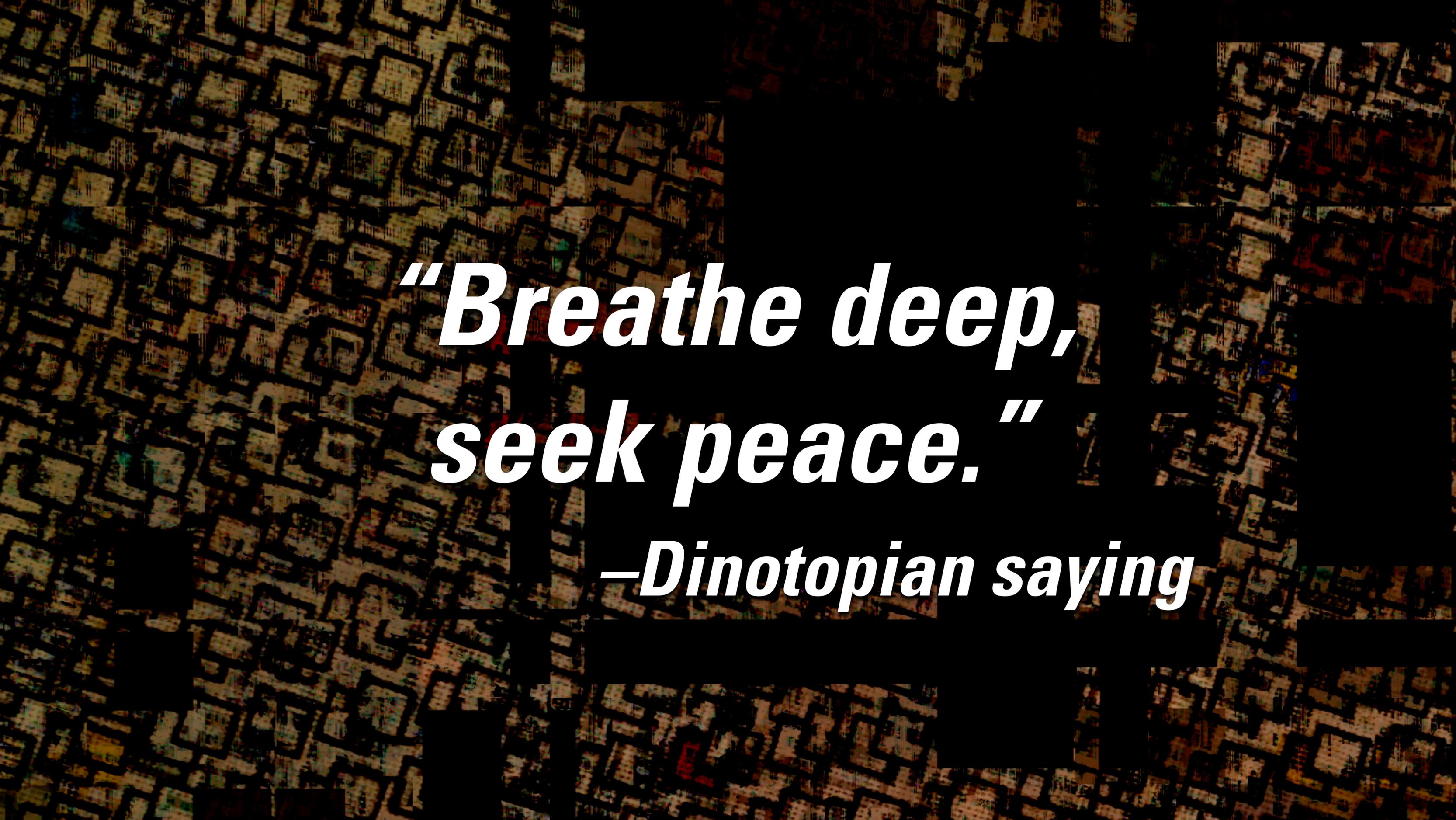
***“All things serve the Beam.”***

***-Midworld saying,  
The Dark Tower series, Stephen King***

An aerial photograph of a city grid, likely New York City, showing a dense pattern of streets and buildings. The image is darkened and has a semi-transparent black overlay. The text is centered and written in a bold, white, italicized font.

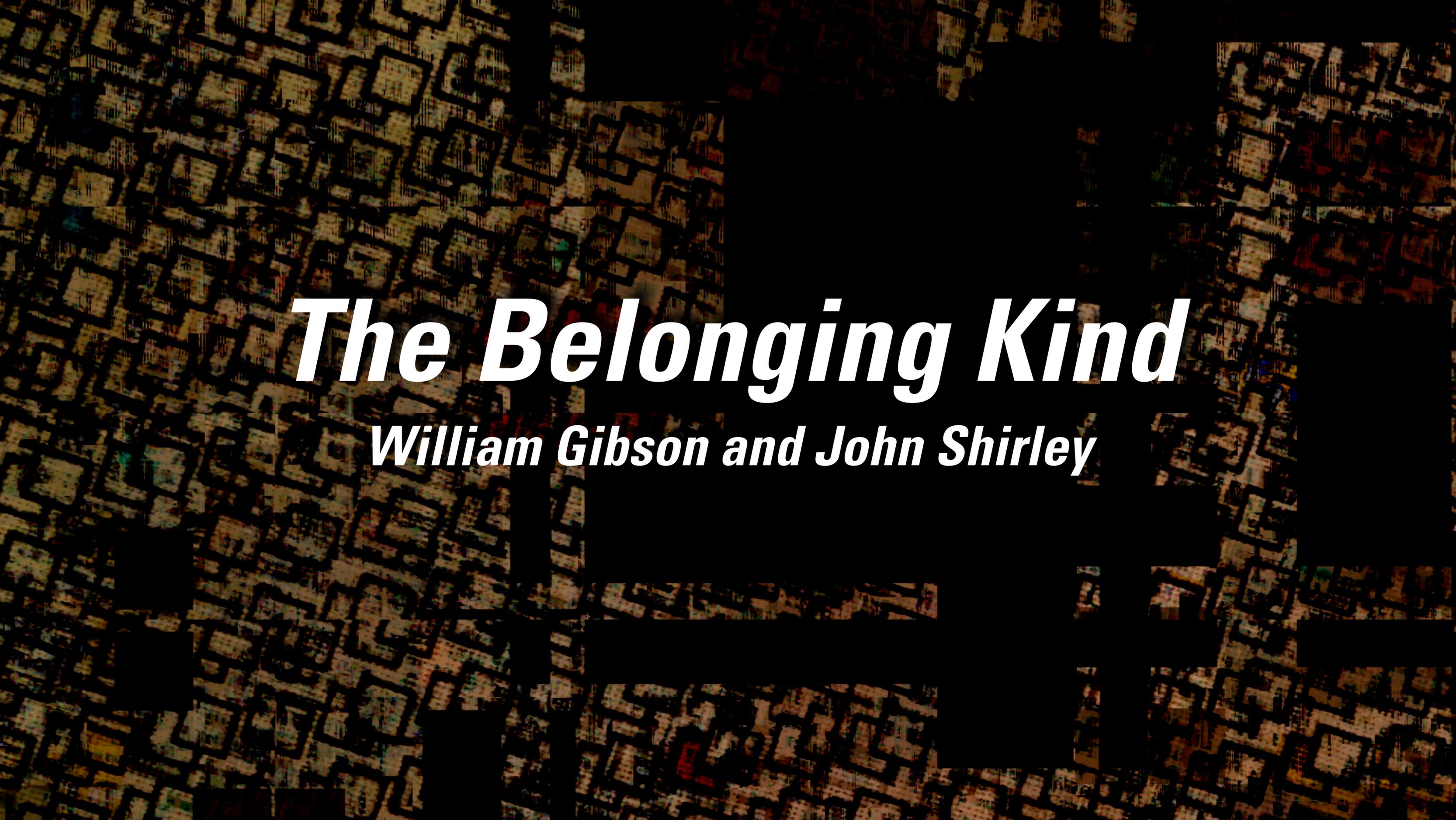
***“The needs of the many outweigh  
the needs of the few, or the one.”***

***-Vulcan Proverb, Star Trek***

An aerial photograph of a city with a dense, colorful grid of buildings. The colors range from dark blues and greys to bright yellows and oranges. A dark, semi-transparent rectangular overlay is centered over the image, containing white text.

***“Breathe deep,  
seek peace.”***

***–Dinotopian saying***

The background is a high-angle, aerial photograph of a city's street grid. The streets are dark, and the buildings are a mix of light and dark tones, creating a complex, textured pattern. A dark, semi-transparent horizontal band runs across the middle of the image, serving as a backdrop for the text.

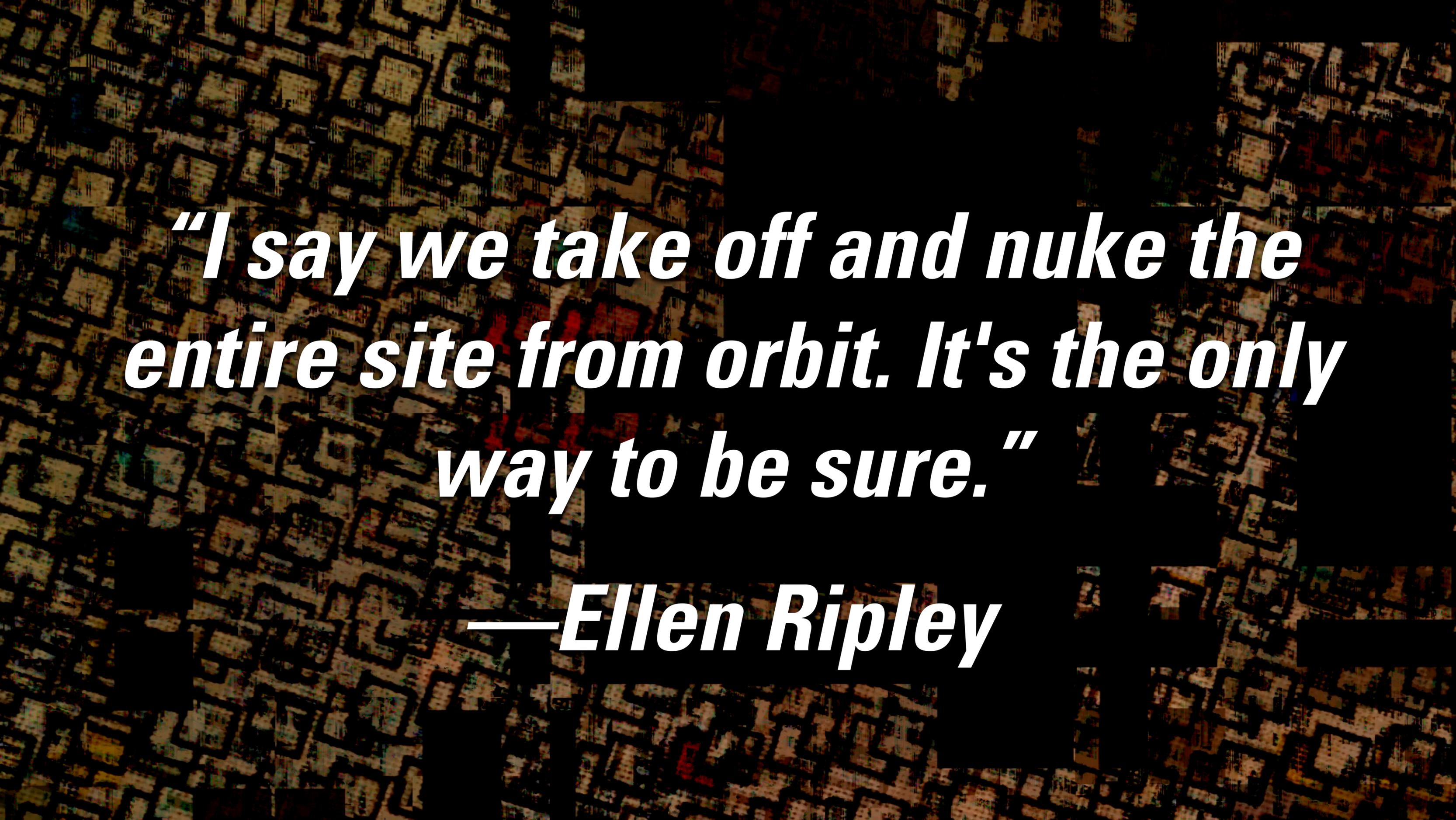
# ***The Belonging Kind***

***William Gibson and John Shirley***



***The Somebody Else's  
Problem Field***

***—from Life, The Universe, and Everything, Douglas Adams***

An aerial photograph of a city grid, showing a dense pattern of streets and buildings. The image is dark, with the city lights and structures appearing in shades of brown, tan, and black. A large, white, italicized quote is superimposed over the center of the image.

***“I say we take off and nuke the entire site from orbit. It's the only way to be sure.”***

***—Ellen Ripley***

# ***Darmok***

***"Darmok and Jalad... at Tanagra."***

***"Shaka, when the walls fell."***

***"Temba, his arms wide!"***

***"Sokath, his eyes uncovered!"***



***“Live Long and Prosper.”***

***–Spock***

An aerial photograph of a city's street grid, showing a dense pattern of streets and buildings. A large, solid black rectangle is superimposed over the center of the image. Inside this black rectangle, the word "Qapla'!" is written in a bold, white, italicized serif font. The text is centered horizontally and vertically within the black area.

***Qapla'!***