John Lengkeek

"They"

Everyone thought that the world ended in one big moment, some explosion or alien invasion or something crazy like that. But that's not how it really happened. The truth is, the world ended on some random Friday, when THEY finally stepped out of their darkness and took full control. THEY used the AI systems everyone thought were helping us. THEY used the nuclear weapons we thought were protecting us, well, at least threatened to. THEY too control the world through the valuable technology we thrived on. THEY run all systems now and probably set the stage before officially taking over.

We all kinda knew THEY were in charge forever; we just didn't want to admit it because it made us feel better to pretend we had some control in our day-to-day lives. Life changed after that, they made us into clockwork; everything unique was shutdown sure there was bwenfiets more inefficiency and less waist but any uniqueness going against them was squashed. As grocery stores would only open at certain hours, and THEY'd watch what you bought. THEY even changed school, making kids recite some pledge to a flag. THEY looked like kings or dictators before, but the reality was now they were. THEY said the world was collapsing because normal people "couldn't be trusted" with freedom anymore. THEY said humanity messed up too much, and THEY had to step in.

Some people even agreed with THEM, saying it was "God's plan." People used to joke about their phone listening to them, and it probably did,d but now it's normal for it to talk back to you just like another person. The few who warned of it were killed or went into hiding. They

used to be mocked by the public, but only now does the public realize that they are the ones who rare being mocked.

Now THEY owned the world. But THEY forgot the one thing THEY can't fully control: people who refuse to let the freedom of the mind be taken. The greatest chasm of men are still out of touch, but who knows for how long they have already started testing ways to control the mind as well…….