

Americans Against Eminent Domain Abuse

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## The Parable of the Tribe and the Orchard

Long ago there was a Tribe of people whose bodies had evolved to be completely sustained by apples. On the territory they had defended throughout their history, there was an apple orchard. The apple trees in the orchard formed a circular shape, with the ground beneath the trees gently sloping down towards the middle from all directions. The trees on the outside of the orchard were subject to harsh winds and brutal sun while the trees near the center were shielded and benefited from rainwater flowing down the gentle slopes towards the center.

The trees in and near the center bore a bountiful harvest of apples every year while the trees further and further from the center bore less fruit because of less water and harsher conditions.

The Tribe was governed by a Chief and a Council of 5, with the Chief being the most respected elder and having the nicest, most comfortable shelter for he and his family because of his position. The Council members also lived somewhat more comfortably than the rest of the Tribal members, but only slightly so. The Tribe lived in harmony and all were well provided for, all sustained by the Orchard with plenty of apples for all.

The Tribe also had a giant below-ground pit where they would store part of the bountiful harvest of apples each year. Only the Chief had access to the pit and only he could grant access to anyone. The pit was cool and preserved the apples so anytime the Tribe needed the reserve, they could access the pit, but only with the Chief's permission and accompaniment.

In the Countryside surrounding the Orchard Tribe, there were other Tribes. Some were hostile to the Orchard Tribe, some indifferent, but not friendly. None had evolved to be only sustained by apples like the Orchard Tribe, and had to scavenge for less nutritious food, nonetheless, they survived without too much discomfort. That said, they ate apples any time they could find the highly nutritious fruit. It was the very most nutritious and sustaining food that anyone in that world knew of.

During their history, the Orchard Tribe had been attacked by other Tribes seeking to usurp their territory, but none were successful as the Orchard tribe warriors were always physically superior due to their highly nutritional diet since birth. The contests were never close and the Tribe had lived in peace with the other Tribes for as long as anyone could remember.

As is common in human nature, after a long time of service to The People, the Chief began thinking he and his family should live in even more comfort than they already did because of his service to The People. The thought festered in his mind as evil thoughts do until one day, when he sensed discontent in one of the Council members, he whispered to the member “we should be living better than we are.” It was clear the Council member had been thinking the same thing. The Chief already had a plan, they would take apples from the pit in the dark of night and sell them to one of the indifferent Tribes who refused to trade with them, but coveted apples.

The Council member agreed and they did just that. No one was the wiser as only the Chief could access the pit and he never took all the apples. The few times the reserve was needed by the Tribe, there were enough apples to sustain them. Unbeknownst to the Chief, the Tribe he had been selling the apples to were hoarding them in a pit they had dug for themselves. Years of this arrangement went by with the Chief and his coconspirator Council member stacking up goods and living far better than anyone else in the Tribe.

Then one year there was a prolonged drought and a plague of insects like nothing the Tribe had ever experienced before. The orchard suffered mightily, and even the lush, rich center trees in what the Tribe called “Trantia Giganta” translated to English as Tier 1 areas, were wilting. The trees in the area moving away from the center and along the edge, which had always contributed apples, but not many, were completely dead. Those trees were in what the Tribe called “Teranta No ganta” which translated to English means Tier 2 areas.

Panic set in and the Tribe called to the Chief to open the pit and release the storehouse of apples so that they might be nourished, but he refused. They stormed the Pit and opened it only to find few apples there. They had been betrayed! They were weak from lack of nourishment. Instantly, they heard the bloodcurdling war cries of the Tribe with whom they did not trade. They were coming to attack. The Orchard Tribe was shocked when they saw the size of the first warriors approaching, they were enormous! Their Chief had released the giant stores of apples he had been buying from the Orchard Tribe’s Chief to only his warriors for the entire previous year. With all that nutrition they had become incredibly strong, as never before.

The Tribe with whom the Orchard Tribe did not trade overran the Orchard Tribes weakened warriors. The Orchard Tribe was no more, they had been betrayed by their own government.

A few stragglers of the Orchard Tribe survived the onslaught of the Tribe with whom they did not trade and those stragglers were now slaves. They kept the oral history of their once mighty Tribe alive and the Chief, his family, and the Councilman who had betrayed them were known as The Scourge in the Tribe’s story, forever labeled as the traitors who sold out the Tribe.