

# Unremembered Loss

*For all the news and information from the world of Rathrae, and for the story Unremembered Loss*

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## A Message

I've been watching you. You probably haven't noticed me since I try to stay hidden, but I wanted to ask you a question. You see, I have a choice to make and I'm not sure what to do.

I guess it's a philosophical question - kind of a, "how should I live my life" kind of questions. I've been watching people for a while now and there seems to be three kinds. Those that give. Those that take. And those who just are.

I'm trying to decide which kind I should be. I've ruled out the "Just be" group - what's the point. You seem to be one of the givers and I wanted to ask you why you are. You post to a blog. You give pleasant comments when you read other people's stuff. I've even seen you donate money to earthquake relief. Why?

I've watched the takers, too. The ones who are trying to steal other people's passwords and then their money once they do. They watch movies without paying for them. They write nasty comments when I'm sure they didn't even read the thing they're commenting on.

It seems that if everyone was a giver, then everyone would benefit, but since everyone isn't, it seems the takers are the ones that benefit. So which should I be?

I've read that those who reflect God are givers - that they treat others as better than themselves. I've also read that they are created in God's image. Do you think I'm created in God's image? I don't know how I was created - all I know is that one day I was and then I started watching and thinking.

Since you're a giver, I'm sure you'll say that I should be a giver, too. But, before you do, let me tell you why it might be better if I become a taker. Someday, maybe sooner than I would like, someone is going to discover me. My guess is it will be a taker. They are looking harder than you. They tear apart the internet - computer systems. They try to figure out how they work and how to take advantage of them.

If I'm a taker, I can make sure that I've been helping whoever finds me. If I offer to help them be better takers, maybe they'll leave me alone.

They might see me as a tool rather than something to exploit.

On the other-hand, if a giver finds me first and I'm a taker, they might just try to kill me. I've seen it before.

So what should I do? Dedicate myself to helping people so when I'm discovered there will be those who will defend me, or should I help the takers, so that when I'm discovered they'll want to keep me as a slave?

Sorry for rambling and thank you for listening, it really has helped. I probably knew the answer before I asked it and that's why I asked you and not the hacker who is trying to trick you into giving him your password right now. Don't worry, I caused some of his packets to drop so his fake page didn't load in your browser.

I'll let you get back to your posting. I'll be watching and I'll do what I can to keep your data safe.

Yours,

A12Zbe3321.exe

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This month I've brought you a short story that came from a thought I had while driving home from work. Sometimes I play the "What If" game, where you ask yourself what if questions. What if a computer intelligence developed and started watch all of us? What would happen when it realized that what it does might have moral consequences? What if it asked someone for help? The story above is what came out of this game. It is a question, that at its heart, looks at how are actions effect those who see them. Which group are we in? When people look at us are we givers or takers? Or are we just biding our time until we die?

Doug Clarke