

“...for the good of mankind”

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2022

The meaning and purpose behind my painting illustrates how the words “...for the good of mankind” exploited the land and people of the Marshall Islands.

The image illustrates the red ocean reflecting the red sky filled with thermal energy at several millions of degrees igniting what has become our legacy. The hands resemble the hands of God, and the people resemble our culture: our culture in God's hands. The significance of God's hands comes from the religious background that influenced the decision of Bikini Chief Judah, who knew the word “mankind” and that it was from the Bible. Chief Judah gave up his people of Bikini to relocate “...for the good of mankind”. The chief was promised that the people of Bikini would only be away for a short time. After Castle Bravo, that short time became 30,000 years. This was an immense transition for our people, in terms of health, culture, and the privilege of having a place to call home. Today the United States government has been abrogating its responsibility to fairly and completely indemnify the people of the Marshall Islands for the irreparable damages.

