

# I Wish

- I wish people were kinder to each other and took more time to try and understand others, particularly those not like them,
- I wish that people didn't take the life of another and that we had leaders who didn't believe in war,
- I wish the Crusades never happened,
- I wish that our country hadn't slaughtered our native Americans and wreaked havoc with their cultures and livelihoods,
- I wish the Australians and other countries learned from their native people instead of working to destroy them and take their lands,
- I wish people didn't and wouldn't enslave one another,
- I wish that Hitler hadn't been born or effective,
- I wish Genocide didn't happen in Armenia or Rwanda, or in any other places,
- Regardless of the condition of the world ...
- I will keep on wishing, and even for a saner 2023

*Steven C. Markoff*

*November 8, 2022*

*Penned on Jadwiga's and my recent trip to West Africa, when It came to me that many of the villages we visited, considered "poor" by our standards, were more civilized than we are. The above free-verse was drafted on one of our bus trips in Benin, West Africa, on November 8, 2022.*