least twenty times the destructive power of a Hiroshima bomb, are already deployed all around the world. Each member of the human family is ‘granted’ at least five tons of explosives for ‘benign Hara-kiri’ it seems…Meanwhile billions pour into the pockets of the warmongers of modern metropolises. These warlords of Mammon would eventually thrive in an ‘Inorganic Paradise’ – a ‘paradise’ void of universal human rights and sustained by legalised torture; glorification of violence geared towards maximising profit at any cost; xenophobic state terror protected with religious fervour. Thus, genocide is bound to become the collateral damage of its inorganically modernised and sweat-shopped ‘global village’ of hunger and debt.

Unless, of course, humanity at large will ‘rage against the dying’ of its dreams and refuse to become cannon fodder for Mammon and terror, guarding thus its deeds of tolerance and justice, fair share and good care, compassion and conscience – the true wealth of the world, hence the health of nations.

A letter from Kurt Vonnegut to In These Times

Dear Editor:

If I may impose on your extraordinary hospitality yet again: I was on Jon Stewart’s Daily Show September 13th, and arrived with a compendium of liberal crap I never wanted to hear again, and my responses thereto. But I only had six minutes, and so never got a chance to read them out loud. For whatever they may be worth to you:

‘Give us this day our daily bread.’ Sure. I’ll pay for it. Enjoy!

‘Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.’ Oh, yeah? Anybody trespasses on me, and I’ll cut him a new you-know-what.

‘Blessed are the peacemakers.’ Jane Fonda? Give me a break!

‘Love thy enemies.’ Arabs?

‘Blessed are the meek.’ You bet! I love ’em, too. I tell ’em to kiss my ass, and they’ll kiss it.

‘No man can serve two masters. You cannot serve both God and Mammon.’ Mammon, of course, is the god of greed and riches. And the hell I can’t serve both God and Mammon. Look at Pat Robertson! He’s as happy as a hog up to its ears in excrement!

Kurt Vonnegut
10/9/05