Letter of Consolation
By Dan Sisco

It has come to our attention
you are all quite frantic down there.
Our sincere regrets, in particular to the influential
and misguided American people.
For generations you have been worshipping in
error.
Everyone up here would like to clarify things for
you.

The god of “work” you pray to, perform offerings for
and reverently question each other’s sects about
(as in :What do you do for a living?)is a very
small god,
hardly worth mentioning
Yet you are convinced
your treasure filled days
and indeed, your precious lives
are worth no more than this god’s boons of;
career, money, pensions, perhaps
some health insurance
and exhaustion when you get home.
Is that all this pitiful god has to offer?

Smaller still is the god of war.
With boot camps, military bases
and arsenal churches
you’ve built all over the planet.
And the faithful are bestowed what?
Death, injury and PTSD!

Our apologies from up here.
You must have misheard us.
J-O-Y is not, and was never pronounced- WAR.
Security and its gender opposite Fear
were never even in our conversations.
We couldn’t find a category for them out here.

You have more; car gods, money gods, the
religious hubris gods,
the corporate gods, the upper 1% god etc.
Trust us when we say
“All these gods are very, very small
and quite invisible. Here’s is a hint about them… You made them up!”
They have no power except what you give
them by your devotion to them.
After all, they are only surviving on meals of
opinions
Starving them should take no time at all.
We all hope this is helpful.
Thank you for your improved understanding

Sincerely, The Real Ones

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practice in the Portland, OR area. Dan’s poems have been featured on
radio both locally (KBOO) and nationally (Garrison Keillor’s Writer’s
Almanac); his short stories have been published in numerous literary
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