Prayers for Petition - Meditation

When I pray for peace I pray God to pacify not only the Russians and the Chinese but above all my own nation and myself.

When I pray for peace I pray to be protected not only from the Reds but also from the folly and blindness of my own country.

When I pray for peace, I pray not only that the enemies of my country may cease to want war, but above all that my own country will cease to do the things that make war inevitable.

In other words, when I pray for peace I am not just praying that the Russians will give up without a struggle and let us have our own way.

I am praying that both we and the Russians may somehow be restored to sanity and learn how to work out problems, as best we can, together, instead of preparing for global suicide.

I am fully aware that this sounds utterly sentimental, archaic, and out of tune with an age of science. But I would like to submit that pseudoscientific thinking in politics and sociology have so far had much less than this to offer.

One thing I would like to add in all fairness is that the atomic scientists themselves are quite often the ones most concerned about the ethics of the situation, and that they are among the few who dare to open their mouths from time to time and say something about it.

But who on Earth listens?

By Thomas Merton, *New Seeds of Contemplation*