

In the words of the theologian Reinhold Niebuhr, who was the inspiration for Obama's Nobel peace prize acceptance speech, we live in an age of unsatisfying incongruity:

"Nothing that is worth doing can be achieved in our lifetime; therefore we must be saved by hope. Nothing which is true or beautiful or good makes complete sense in any immediate context of history; therefore we must be saved by faith. Nothing we do, however virtuous, can be accomplished alone; therefore we must be saved by love. No virtuous act is quite as virtuous from the standpoint of our friend or foe as it is from our own standpoint. Therefore we must be saved by the final form of love, which is forgiveness."

May God forgive us for this dreadful decade and fortify us for the next.

Cited by andrewsullivan.com

The Sunday Times 30.11.10
News Review p.4