

Subwoofer

By Douglas Groothuis

Thumping, bumping from nowhere—louder, deeper, unmistakable,
unavoidable.

Now from everywhere—pounding, roaring, bursting into my
unprotected being, uninvited, unstoppable.

A rolling, prowling object
radiating meanness, rudeness, crudeness, lewdness.

Sonic stench of thick machine noise
Putrid pulsations penetrating the unwary sensorium.

Subwoofer

Sonic-ravager

Noise-blaster

Rudeness-amplifier

Rudeness-accelerator

Boom-bomber

Bombast-er

Nowhere to hide

No shield to wield

No escape from the quake.

Vibrations vitiating body and soul

No cover for the ears

It roars in through the pores,
the spores of sonic death,

disintegration, degeneration.

At last, the beastly roar retreats
from the scene of the cultural crime.

The wounded remain

dazed, angry, helpless

On it thunders, to terrorize, victimize all in its audio wake

More sensoria to scuttle
down the wretched road

Shalom undone,

plundering peace, ravaging reason,
ear by ear, soul by soul.

Subwoofer

Sub-humanizer

De-humanizer

Anti-humanizer

Uncivil, uncivilizing

profitable, popular, poisonous

Subwoofer

Nowhere to be seen or heard or feared or hated

in

the Kingdom that is to come!

Douglas Groothuis (Ph.D., University of Oregon) is professor of philosophy at Denver Seminary, where he has served since 1993. He has written ten books, including *On Pascal* and *On Jesus* (both in the Wadsworth Philosophers Series), and he served as contributing editor for *Dictionary of Contemporary Religion in the Western World*.

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