

**Essay from the bald pastor  
#81 - Shale Bubble -**

There are very few schools in Japan where you can study mining. As far as I know, Akita University is the only one with mining engineering department. However, elsewhere in the world, many people with degree in mining are working as oil and gas field supervisors, and quite a few of them make over one hundred thousand dollars annually. In the U.S. where the shale revolution is taking place, Williston, North Dakota and Houston, Texas are the two hottest cities that are booming thanks to shale gas. Williston is known for recording the all-time lowest unemployment rate in the country. Houston, known as the center of American oil production, is now leading the production of a non-conventional resource, "shale gas." As they drill new shale formations one after another, the economy has boomed so much that the rent for their local office building quickly doubled. Also, Houston already has pipelines laid out for them and there's no need for extra equipment investment. That's why many investors are flocking to the city. As a result, the price for concession is skyrocketing, causing a bubble economy.

However, the biggest contributing factor to the bubble is the system that bring enormous wealth to landowners. Typically, mining companies acquire the rights to lease and extract lands for three years from the landowners. Landlords get a hundred million dollars simply from selling the rights. On top of that, they get 25 % of the mining company's earnings from extraction as a royalty payment. If the company produced 4000 barrels a day, the landlord gets a hundred thousand dollars every day. Naturally, if the company produces more, the landlord gets more respectively. Greedy landlords, mining companies, and oil majors are working together for their own benefits, accelerating the bubble economy.

Jesus Christ warns as follows;

***And he told them this parable: "The ground of a certain rich man produced a good crop. He thought to himself, 'What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.' "Then he said, 'This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store all my grain and goods. And I'll say to myself, "You have plenty of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry."' "But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?' "This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich toward God."***

**Luke 12:16-21**

God sometimes punishes those who don't respect Him, don't appreciate Him, and think that they can do as they please. It's painful to see people losing control of themselves in the bubble.

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