

As if the Israelites weren't fleeing to Jerusalem  
As if the world weren't coming to an end  
As if meditation were the answer or medication or mediation  
As if living simply were the answer or singing or worshipping Buddha  
As if our offspring were not all stunted by the fastidious blends  
and bi-products of last centuries' karma  
As if battered women and child abuse were really another issue  
As if the war at home and the war abroad were unconnected  
As if changing the TV channel could erase the truth  
about our complicity in the destruction of the planet  
As if the Israelis are not our children  
As if the Palestinians are not our children  
As if the Rwandans are not our children  
As if the Albanians are not our children  
As if the Serbians are not our children  
As if as if

As if the elderly are not our children  
As if the homeless are not our children  
As if we can avoid each other on earth by living in cyber space  
As if E-mail could replace the human connection  
As if we could love one another and not go crazy  
As if we could love one another and not go crazy  
As if life is not relentless  
As if we could ever be in paradise again  
As if as if

As if the war in Iraq will give Bush higher ratings  
As if the cartoons were any less violent  
As if Bin Laden is only bloodthirsty, territorial and savage  
As if Hussein is only bloodthirsty, territorial and savage  
As if Bush is only bloodthirsty, territorial and savage  
As if we are all not bloodthirsty, territorial and savage

As if we could flee to Jerusalem  
As if there is Jerusalem  
As if the commencement of The Gulf War on Martin Luther King's birthday  
was not an appropriate measure of American racism  
and totally in keeping with everything else  
As if the gunning down of Diallo and the brutal rape of Louima  
were not also totally in keeping with everything else  
As if penetration of the enemy were not a male activity  
As if Bush was just a nice man and it would all be over in a few days  
As if the media ever really told the truth  
As if there will ever be a new world order  
As if . . .