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 . . .