



religion

although anthropologists aren't sure how to define it  
they find religion everywhere  
    entwined with all cultures  
most religions give definitive or implied answers to existential questions  
    where are we  
    what are we a part of  
    what is the meaning of our experience of immanence / transcendence  
almost all religions offer alternative Narrative to the Self-as-Separate Identity  
    have in common something like, 'Love One Another'  
some would have us hammer our swords into plowshares

religion can tie Western reasoning into knots  
    evoke epiphanies in music, meditation, yoga  
invite us to create community  
    in prayer, ritual, dance, friendship  
insist with the sureness of thunder that we are not alone  
    that there is meaning to our suffering, purpose to our lives  
    eternity in us, death not our end

Stories told by the various religions, though  
narratives of belonging, ethical imperatives, discourse of an Ultimate Justice  
seem to have little or no effect  
    on our response to Global warming  
    on Conservatives succumbing to the politics of the bully  
    on prioritizing weapons of war instead of feeding the hungry  
religion can fail us

only when unchained from the Master Narrative  
can religion tell a story free and true  
    about Women, about Equality, Earth, the Animals and Nature  
    about our Responsibility for One Another  
The prophetic signs are all around us.