



language

from galaxies to neutrinos / blue whales to mitochondria
we name things — places, actions, feelings, everything...
language with its syntax and grammar
instructs on how to fit the words together
 spin them into threads / weave meanings into discourse
skills we learn in childhood

language holds us together
defines values / signals success / responds to our irreducible questioning
provides a place for civilization
 without language no Science / no World as we know it
language has brought us libraries of literature / museums / concert halls / schools / universities
commerce / law / democracy / medicine / our pluralistic, inter-connected Planet
— but at a price

language assumes that the categories its logic depends on — are true
 among them, in many of our cultures
the dichotomous and hierarchical relations between
 Subject > Object
 Consciousness > World
 Self > Other
 man / woman | white / black | light / darkness | etc.

language etches pathways of thinking
produces patterns of expectation and responsibility
 in view of a particular take on the World and One Another
in feedback loop relationships with culture

it's essential to acknowledge these parameters
for we've nowhere else to turn
language brought us as far as we've come
 provided a nest for hope
we need it now to help us end the suffering it also permitted
help us create a New World