

Answer vs. Response

To many crucial issues
in our lives
we may beseech God
for an answer,
but what we really want
is a response.

An answer
is about facts;
a response
is about relationships.

An answer addresses
your question;
a response deals with
your quest.

An answer
satisfies the mind;
a response
goes to the heart.

An answer informs
and instructs;
a response enlightens
and emboldens.

When the scriptural Job
clamored to heaven
about his tragic plight,
God did not give him
an answer,
but He did offer
a response.

When tsunamis and hurricanes
strike with lethal force,
we all know the
scientific answers,
but what we look for
is the human response.

When friends
come to cry on your shoulder,
they don't expect from you
an adequate answer,
but they do count on
your sympathetic response.

Therefore,
in facing the tragic episodes
in our private and social lives,
enquiry
will look for an answer,
but only
solidarity
will come up with
a response.

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