Read *Ishmael* Chapter #9 and respond to the following questions. Submit your written responses but be prepared to speak to these questions in class.

1. How does the relationship between the narrator and Ishmael change at the beginning of the Chapter?
2. Provide an analysis/your thoughts on the portrayal of the gods as they contemplate the value of one life over another. Does this make sense? Do you agree/disagree with it? What is your opinion on this view?
3. What knowledge does the Tree of Knowledge provide to the Gods? Is this good/valuable knowledge?
4. Explain the biblical references used in this chapter, especially the connection to Adam & Eve and Cain & Abel. How are these references connected to Ishmael’s lessons?
5. According to Ishmael why can’t man eat from the Tree of Knowledge? What is the connection to the earlier points about humanity?
6. The text argues that “the knowledge of good and evil is fundamentally the knowledge the rulers of the world must exercise, because every single thing they do is good for some but evil for others.” (p. 165). Explain this quote and how it relates to humanity. Do you agree with it?
7. Summarize the spread of agriculture and its effect on other societies as described in the novel, (pp. 172-178).
8. Analyze the following quote, “Man can never have the wisdom the gods use to rule the world, and if he tries to pre-empt wisdom the results won’t be enlightenment, it will be death.” (p.183). Do you agree or disagree?
9. Should a human have the right to have as many children as they want? Ishmael suggests that humanity believes “it’s our right to apportion life on this planet as we please…all we have to do is plow under another few hundred acres of rain forest – and who cares if a dozen other species disappear as a result?” (p. 181). How is the expansion of humans different from the expansion of other animals, (considering they give birth to larger litters, and more frequently).
10. Explain the quote that closes the chapter: “Adam wasn’t the progenitor of our race, he was the progenitor of our culture.” (p. 184).