

DIS POEM

(1992)

dis poem
shall speak of the wretched sea
that washed ships to these shores
of mothers crying for their young
swallowed up by the sea
dis poem shall say nothin new
dis poem shall speak of time
time unlimited
time undefined
dis poem shall call names
names like
lumumba
kenyatta
nkrumah
hannibal
akenaton
malcolm
garvey
haile selassie
dis poem is vex
about apartheid
racism
fascism
the klu klux klan
riots in brixton

atlanta
jim jones
dis poem is revoltin against
first world
second world
third world
division
manmade decision
dis poem is like all the rest
dis poem will not be amongst great literary works
will not be recited by poetry enthusiasts
will not be quoted by politicians
nor men of religion
dis poem is knives . . . bombs . . . guns . . .
blazing for freedom
yes dis poem is a drum
ashanti
mau mau
ibo
yoruba
niahbingi warriors
uhuru . . . uhuru
namibia uhuru
uhuru
soweto
uhuru
afrika!
dis poem will not change things
dis poem needs to be changed
dis poem is the rebirth of a people arising . . .
awaking . . . overstanding
. . . dis poem speak

is speakin . . . has spoken
 dis poem shall continue
 even when poets have stopped writing
 dis poem shall survive . . . u . . . me . . .
 it shall linger in history
 in your mind
 in time . . .
 forever
 dis poem is time
 only time will tell
 dis poem is still not written
 dis poem has no poet
 dis poem is just a part of the story his-story . . .
 her-story . . . our-story
 the story still untold
 dis poem is now ringing . . . talking
 irritatin
 making u want to stop it
 but dis poem will not stop
 dis poem is long
 cannot be short
 dis poem cannot be tamed
 cannot be blamed
 the story is still not told about dis poem
 dis poem is old
 new
 dis poem is copied from
 the bible
 your prayer book
 the new york times
 readers digest
 the c.i.a. files

the k.g.b. files
 dis poem is no secret
 dis poem shall be called
 boring
 stupid
 senseless
 dis poem is watchin u
 tryin' to make sense from dis poem
 dis poem is messin up your brains
 makin u want to stop listenin to dis poem
 but you shall not stop listenin to dis poem
 u need to know what will be said next in dis poem
 dis poem shall disappoint u because . . .
 dis poem is to be continue
 in your mind . . .
 in your mind . . .
 in your mind . . .