

who commutes between
this stop & Harlem U.S.A.
tells you he's never been to
Brown or the School of Design
but he know for a fact that
it's mafia keep this town relaxed

“They got the highest houses
up in them hills but after them
come all your professors & pro-
fessionals/people with a
highclass license to steal”

You want to come back in
summer when the change takes
place but this brilliant chill
has tightened your head

New England is a poker game too

Mr. Booker T. / James W. Blake

Were you the Brer Rabbit
of African conjuring?
Did you take Stowe's
vision and turn it
into her husband's foe?
Did that scheme
divide our family
or was Du Bois just
the turn man
and Garvey a substitute?
Is it true you taught
Chilembwe how to build
an icon for freedom
out of mud?
Some said it was
because of the white blood.
Did you really wink
approval with Mendel's laws

tucked under arm?
What is this I hear
of your creations—
OUT OF MYTH,
OUT OF INSANITY, OUT OF ILLUSION?
Mr. Booker T.:
were you the green moss
on the trees
leading slaves to Jordan?
were the interpretations of
you purposely distorted;
like our music, literature.
US?

Who carved your mask?
Was it a synthesis of the
African continuum?
Did it fit so tight
brothers questioned/diatribed?

Mr. Booker T. were you an UNCLE TOM?

for James L. Talps

Port Arthur / Shirley Williams

*(from SOMEONE'S SWEET ANGEL CHILE:
BESSIE SMITH)*

what he do you
nonya

(I seed the eye swolled shut)

how much he take
nonya
(I seed this in a dream)

Make yo hand in a fis'