Play Ebony Play Ivory

play ebony play ivory
play chords that
  speak primeval
  play ebony play ivory
play notes that
  speak my people . . .

  play ebony play ivory
play til air explodes
play til it subsides
  play ebony play ivory.

for the songless, the dead
who rot the earth
all these dead,
whose muted sour tongues
speak broken chords,
all these aging people
poison the heart of earth.

they cannot sing
they cannot play
they cannot breathe the early rhythm
they never heard the pulse of womb
so up! you bursting lungs
you spirits of morning breath
up! and make fingers
and play long and play soft
play ebony play ivory.

play my people
all my people who breathe
the breath of earth
all my people who are keys and chords . . .

now touch
and hear and see
let your lungs scream
til they explode
til blood subsides
and flesh vibrates . . .

make chords that speak
play long play soft
play ebony play ivory
play ebony
play ivory
Let us have eagles!
Let us have eagles
among my people!

The hot wind has melted
ice and the ice has fallen.
The cold wind has chiseled mountains
and they have fallen.
The dry wind has gnawed
away stone and stone is sand.
The cruel winds have cut
feathers, skin and bone,
and the sparrows have died.

Let us have new wings
among my people!
Let us have bones
among my people!
Let us have visions
among my people!

Let us ride the wind
into the high country.
Let us have eagles!
Vodu green clinching his waist,
obi purple ringing his neck,
Shango, God of the spirits,
whispering in his ear,
thunderlight stabbing the island
of blood rising from his skull.

Mojo bone in his fist
strikes the sun from his eye.
Iron claw makes his wrist.
He recalls the rites of strength
carved upon his chest.
Black flame, like tongues of glass,
ripples beneath a river of sweat.

Strike the island!
Strike the sun!
Strike the eye of evil!
Strike the guilty one!

No power can stay the mojo
when the obi is purple
and the vodu is green
and Shango is whispering,
Bathe me in blood.
I am not clean.
Hunt

antelope falls
i watch
jakquila cut
i watch
titio cut
i watch
yakub lift
i watch
all carry
i leg beneath
i tongue
falling blood
i am butang
dog