

BASIL KING

Here comes H/J

LTD/Houdini/Jolson

Houdini takes Al Jolson into the cage and tells him to take Black Face off. He puts chains on him and tells him to smile. Smile, mama, I'm a coming, and I won't be late. I'm coming home with Houdini. He picks locks and the world is in awe of his methods. He escapes and temporarily leaves millions of people behind him. Ever since Moses wrote his vision onto the tablets, I command you says the Jew, and God obeys.

Denial blindfolds Houdini and Jolson as they glide like a warm wind fishing for a space that will not entrap them. They are entertainers and their powers are limited.

Trade Shylock, forfeit the secular, exterminate the man on the cross. Franz Kafka, Isaac Babel, Bruno Schultz, and Nathaniel West interrupt the liar. He wants peace, they want disruption.

They do something that Houdini and Jolson are incapable of doing. They build houses for their grief and feed their grief three times a day. They make love to everything that has been given to them and to everything that has been taken from them. They understand that if their grief starves they too will starve.

Justice, having lost her blindfold, cannot see without her glasses. Moving from town to town, country to country, giving new meaning to nature's imperfections, she weighs the sun in one hand and in her other hand the moon cups her beautiful breasts and asks which one is right, which one is wrong?