



TWO VIEWS IN BLACK & WHITE:

1. STRATEGIES OF THE GAME; one view

Draw carefully from the hereditary stack.
Now if you're in luck you're a Rockerfeller,
which means I'm the other, cause there's a pack of us
for every one of you.
Roll the dice and see which way to go.
Either sit on the catapult,
or get gulped below.
You just landed on a "turn tenement into a condo."
Make a million, and be respected.
lionized through lies.
Now, not to be neglected, my roll.
Maybe if too loud she cries,
Not just rape, but a card to kill,
and then am an ape behind bars,
society's proof of my free will.
It's not that bad, though.
I'll dangle from the tire,
paroled soon, get to go again.
Your go.
Do you get the gist?
We roll from crime to crime.
From your unindicted felonies
with full immunity,
consolidating the low income
and working class communities,
to my gorge crimes of opportunity,
on some lonely, humiliated one.
Although unlike unscathed you,
who usually during your go,
appoints my judge--
often than not since they're so easy to stab and scrawny
that my blade slips right on through--Unlike you
I never learn,
cause I always end up wounding
myself with my dagger of a turn.

2. RESPONSIBILITY RAP;
the other view

Although your gripes,
painful and true,
and true equality still lies ahead,
Consider freedom again anew.
It's time to move,
shackles shed.
Every time
there's those certain crimes,
the same headlines are read:
How much is the fault of society?
And how much guilt is placed on you?
Where scales once leaned
with your burdens in mind
people are taking a new view.
Cultural blame is a dangerous game
and patience, no a longer
liberal dictum.
Bernie Goetz became a hero,
the Central Park jogger,
more than a victim.
The word "racist" is sounding antiquated,
especially when most crimes in the ghetto
are on fellow blacks perpetrated.
America's a mess, yes!
But not a Sowetto.
Raving opportunists,
with a militant sting
are speeding the crisis faster
not leading a movement
like Dr. King.
They're speeding things toward a disaster.
Time-cursed tendencies
are veering fatal,
such as bearing children without planning ahead.
Making the street a tragic cradle,
And using fury and violence instead
of calm resolution
is an equally tragic decision
as shunning education;
an Uncle Tom's institution,
so you graduate into a prison.
Those who strive and realize
there's no dignity in the crawl,
who study to win
not ashamed of their skin,
are being hurt worst of all.
Your real enemies say
that more lethally
than any Bensonhurst

or Howard Beach,
What hurts far more than any KKK
Are AIDS, turf wars
and the drug feast.
If you don't start to
address your chronic ills
history recycles times
free of humility.
Progress soon of your own free will,
or someone might assume your responsibility.

REVEALING POSITIONS

Who's kidding who?
Poetry is only read
by other poets,
and usually after we're dead.
Living long enough to see
all words become cliché.
After-life begins
when there's no meaning
to betray.

