

Ishmael Reed: So what kind of stuff have you been thinking about? You said you talk about your thing about poetry. What are you thinking about?

Al Young: (Inaudible) Words that are for everybody. They describe reality. (Inaudible).

Ishmael Reed: You know, you know about Ferlinghetti. You got any thoughts about him? What about Ferlinghetti?

Al Young: He was a very important figure.

Ishmael Reed: Were you influenced by him?

Al Young: I don't know. Maybe. (Inaudible).

Ishmael Reed; So you got a lot of poetry you've written. I like "Conjugal Visit." Is that one of your favorites?

Al Young: Yeah, that is one of my favorites.

Ishmael Reed: And what are some of the others?

Al Young: (Inaudible) books. (Inaudible).

Ishmael Reed: You got you still got a manuscript there, right? Have you heard anything?

Al Young: No.

Ishmael Reed: Thanks for your thoughts about my oldest daughter Timothy. She died, you know.

Al Young: Yeah, I know. I'm really sorry to hear that.

Ishmael Reed: Yeah, you know, she got it coming and going. You know, she had schizophrenia. So they had the prescribe the drug to her that caused her to get Diabetes and they knew that this drug had that effect when they put it on the market. I wrote an article about it in "CounterPunch" and the secretary of one of these departments Alvarez, he was a lawyer for the company. I think it was Eli Lilly and they knew that this drug caused, you know weight gain and Diabetes and they had to pay a class action suit, but that was the only drug that gave her a little bit of

normality, but they never came up with a cocktail that would help her with a schizophrenia. So she you know was like really, you know years of her talking on the phone and her hearing voices. So it was like really a problem. Anyway, I'm glad...have you dictated any poetry?

Al Young: No.

Ishmael Reed: Why not?

Al Young: It's just starting to come back to me.

Ishmael Reed: Yeah, well, you know, I mean, you know, it'd be great to if you thought about that out. Can't you come out of that place? You can come out of that place.

Al Young: Yeah, it will take awhile.

Ishmael Reed: Yeah, you're doing much better than the last time. I talked to you.

Al Young: Oh. Thank you.

Ishmael Reed: That was months ago and you will seem to be coming around. I remember I came down there to was that was a dreadful city, Concord? I came down to Concord to see you and I haven't talked to you since then, but you sound much better.

So I think you're improving.

Al Young: I don't think I am.

Ishmael Reed: Yeah, you're improving. We got to get that old Al Young back here man light up the world, you know, everybody's depressed. Me and Carla got our shots. That vaccine.

Al Young: Which one?

Ishmael Reed: I got Pfizer. I put money in the stock and that stock is not moving at all.

All the vaccines starts are you know just static. They're not moving even with all this publicity.

Yeah. But anyway, well what I'm going to ask you, you know, there's more you did you ever you know about Cecil Brown's book on Richard Pryor? You know Cecil self-published a book on

Richard Pryor and it's like the best one because he's hanging out with you know, he was like the groupies the for Richard Pryor and he and Richard Pryor travel together and like being really hung out together. And at one point Richard Pryor's wife Jennifer said that he took more interest in Cecil than in her and he had seen Richard Pryor had a big fight over that. What was your experience with Richard Pryor?

Al Young: It varied.

Ishmael Reed: You met him right?

Al Young: Yeah.

Ishmael Reed: Did you meet him in Los Angeles or Berkeley?

Al Young: Either Berkeley or Los Angeles. in Los Angeles.

Ishmael Reed: Where you see them in Los Angeles?

Al Young: I don't know. At some public appearance of some kind. I introduced him.

Ishmael Reed: We you know, we publish a lot of people who are very famous now if you look back at "Yardbird." A "Yardbird" reader that we did all those people a lot of those people are famous. and Henry Louis Gates just a few months gave us a big tribute. A big tribute and said that you know, I mean, I think we are among the first to publish him. But now he's the king of the Black experience. So we're the first ones. I got a picture of the three of us. Remember that picture taken out of Stanford? So well you got a you got a great you put out a whole lot of stuff now, it's very few poor to produce as much as you have. Yeah, and what's the name Pam's raised a lot of money for you on GoFundMe. She's really your corner and Michael. I'll talk to Michael, you know, occasionally and you know, he's he seems to be doing well. You got a fortune in that apartment out of the are you still keeping that apartment up?

Al Young: Yeah, I'm keeping it up.

Ishmael Reed: Well the archives of your archives work are a fortune, man. Is somebody collecting that for you or anything?

Al Young: I've been working on that.

Ishmael Reed: I thought you said you had somebody from Boston University coming out here. You're reading right? I know you're reading.

Al Young: Yeah.

Ishmael Reed: What are you reading?

Al Young: Oh, no, no. I'm not reading.

Ishmael Reed: Why not?

Al Young: I'm just getting the ability to do so.

Ishmael Reed: Well, I'll tell you what. The last two times. I saw you, you were not able to carry the conversation and now you seem to be able to carry a good conversation. You know. I think you always knew more words that we knew, huh? You know you always a triple language threat. I'm still getting into trouble.

Al Young: I notice.

Ishmael Reed: As matter, what do you mean? You know, what do you mean, you know all this?

Al Young: That's your specialty.

Ishmael Reed: That's my specialty. Oh my God. I've got to remember that. Since March of last year I've been published in El País Spain liberation. Haaretz in Israel, they published me community and I just got something published in "The Tablet." You know, Alice Walker went off of deep end. She's supporting this neo-Nazi and this Holocaust denier. Yeah, this guy named David Icky. He's this Q'Anon guy. He believes that lizards on the moon are directing human

behavior. So she really going to gone off the deep end. And.so I'm still writing trying put out stuff and you you're going to get back in the game. You know that. So you just have to you know, look on the bright side of things man, without being a Pollyanna, you know what I mean? Because we always been a joke around a lot You know Jim marks call me. He was concerned about you. I directed him to Michael. I think they got together and. You know Michael still with us in PEN Oakland and he's read too many books he doesn't know which one to nominate so he still there. Well, so what are you eating now?

Al Young: A prescribed diet.

Ishmael Reed: Well, I hope is interesting.

Al Young: It is.

Ishmael Reed: Well, I'll give you I'll keep in touch with you.

Al Young: Please do.

Ishmael Reed: You take it easy, Al.