

Marinating over the Anti-Ebony Tower: An Academic ‘Grammar Book’

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Heeding Hortense Spillers’ warning about the limitations of language and dangers of solecism, this paper serves as an introduction for an academic “grammar book.” I explore what it means to live, labor and learn in a land-grab, not a land-grant institution; an educational system that is more private, than public; a corporation with greater educational opportunists than educational opportunities; and a tower that is as anti-ebony as it is ivory. A new academic grammar book benefits not only those concerned with measuring what they intend to measure, but also those intent on razing what is already raised and steadily rising. *[Article copies available for a fee from The Transformative Studies Institute. E-mail address: journal@transformativestudies.org Website: <http://www.transformativestudies.org> ©2019 by The Transformative Studies Institute. All rights reserved.]*

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INTRODUCTION

Pursuing my PhD is the most selfish endeavor I have ever undertaken. This was the self-told refrain for most of my first year as a doctoral student, for I knew that every book I read and every paper I wrote (including this one) was largely for personal gain. Not coming from academic lineage or economic privilege, I could not escape the profound sense of guilt of leaving so many behind in the everyday struggle to live,

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