

# Calabash

A JOURNAL OF CARIBBEAN ARTS AND LETTERS

Volume 2, Number 2: Summer/Fall 2003

## Information about this work:

---

*' ... the night-time put on flesh and blackness ... '*

**By:** MAGGIE HARRIS

**Start Page:** 41

**URL:** <http://library.nyu.edu/calabash/vol2iss2/0202041.pdf>

---

*Calabash: A Journal of Caribbean Arts and Letters* is an international literary journal dedicated to publishing works encompassing, but not limited to, the Anglophone, Francophone, Hispanophone and Dutch-speaking Caribbean. The Journal is especially dedicated to presenting the arts and letters of those communities that have long been under-represented within the creative discourse of the region, among them: Aruba and the Netherlands Antilles, Maroon societies, and the Asian and Amerindian societies of the region. Calabash has a strong visual arts component.

*Calabash* is published by New York University. Please contact the publisher for further permissions regarding the use of this work. Publisher information may be obtained at: <http://library.nyu.edu/calabash/about.html>

*Calabash: A Journal of Caribbean Arts and Letters*

© 2003 New York University

*Maggie Harris*

**‘...The night-time put on flesh and blackness ...’**

Zora Neale Hurston,  
Their eyes were watching God

• • •

... wearing two-tone shoes and new cotton  
he filters an aroma singed with incense and  
cardamoms  
through Demerara shutters  
sealed tight against his breath.

Inside, the young widow fastens locks  
checks under the bed  
pats four small heads  
kisses the cold cross round her neck.

He's on the front-steps, tapping  
a soft-shoe shuffle into perfumed oleander  
and a Lighthouse cigarette. With a step-and  
change  
the guard- dog's breath snuffs into a blue moon.