FOR
MY PARENTS
IN
REVERENCE
Surely, an idiom should never incline toward racism. It often does, however, and this is not altogether fortuitous: there's no racism without a language. The point is not that acts of racial violence are only words but rather that they have to have a word. Even though it offers the excuse of blood, colour, birth - or rather because it uses this naturalist and sometimes creationist discourse - racism always betrays the perversion of a man, the "talking animal". It institutes, declares, writes, inscribes, prescribes. A system of marks, it outlines space in order to assign forced residence or to close off borders. It does not discern, it discriminates.

JACQUES DERRIDA: "RACISM'S LAST WORD"