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HISTORY

MONTH





Bob Cole, James and Rosamond Johnson

"Slaves prayed for the future day of deliverance to come and they kept hope alive by incorporating as part of their mythic past the Old Testament exodus of Israel out of slavery. The appropriation of the Exodus story was for the slaves a way of articulating their sense of historical identity as a people. That identity was also based, of course, upon their common heritage of enslavement. The Christian slaves applied the Exodus story, whose end they knew, to their own experience of slavery, which had not ended.

In identifying with the Exodus story, they created meaning and purpose out of the chaotic and senseless experience of slavery. Exodus functioned as an archetypical event for the slaves. The sacred history of God's liberation of his people would be or was being repeated in their American South."

Albert J. Raboteau "Slave Religion"

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