

The Spiritual Imagination of the Beats

David Stephen Calonne



Charles Johnsons Spiritual Imagination

Théodore Bouabre



Charles Johnsons Spiritual Imagination:

Charles Johnson's Spiritual Imagination Jonathan Little, 1997 In this first book length study of Charles Johnson s work Jonathan Little offers an engaging account of the artistic growth of one of the most important contemporary African American writers From his beginnings as a political cartoonist through his receipt of the National Book Award for *Middle Passage* Johnson s imagination has become increasingly spiritual Little draws upon a wide array of sources including short stories interviews reviews articles and cartoons as he traces the brilliant achievement of this provocative artist who is very much at the height of his career *Charles Johnson s Spiritual Imagination* begins with an analysis of Johnson s political cartoons from the late sixties and early seventies when he was immersed in the Black Power Movement Little shows that in these early cartoons one can already see Johnson s comic genius and his quest for unconstrained artistic freedom even when dealing with the highly charged issues of racial politics By examining how Johnson incorporates the influences of phenomenology Zen Buddhism Taoism Hinduism and Romanticism into a strikingly original perspective on individual and social identity Little chronicles Johnson s development The book illuminates the progression of Johnson s aesthetics as he deals with the at times disturbing contrast between the hope offered by art and spirituality and the harsh realities of African American existence As he situates Johnson within the tradition of African American literature Little pairs each of his novels with a major precursor including novels by Richard Wright and Ralph Ellison and such far ranging sources as Hermann Hesse s *Siddhartha* and the *Ten Oxherding Pictures* These comparisons help to show Johnson s innovations within the African American literary tradition and include discussions of naturalism realism and modernism This book will appeal to anyone interested in African American literature spirituality aesthetics and the culture wars *Charles Johnson* Marc C. Conner, William R. Nash, 2007 *Essays by Herman Beavers Gena Chandler Marc C Conner William Gleason William R Nash Linda Selzer Gary Storhoff and John Whalen Bridge* In *Charles Johnson The Novelist as Philosopher* leading scholars examine the African American author s literary corpus and major themes ideas and influences The essays explore virtually all of Johnson s writings each of his novels his numerous short stories the range of his nonfiction essays his many book reviews and even several unpublished works These essays engage Johnson s work from a variety of critical perspectives revealing the philosophical cultural and political implications of his writings The authors seek especially to understand philosophical black fiction and to provide the multifocal whole sight analysis Johnson s work demands Johnson b 1948 author of *Dreamer Oxherding Tale* and the National Book Award winning *Middle Passage* draws upon influences as diverse as Richard Wright Herman Melville Thomas Aquinas Franz Kafka W E B Du Bois and Ralph Waldo Emerson He combines rigorous training in western philosophy with a lifelong practice in eastern religious and philosophical traditions He has repeatedly told interviewers that he became a writer specifically to strengthen the interplay between philosophy and fiction Marc C Conner is associate professor of English at Washington and Lee University William R Nash is associate professor of American studies

and director of African American studies at Middlebury College *Understanding Charles Johnson* Gary Storhoff, 2004

Understanding Charles Johnson offers a critical introduction to the fiction of one of the most highly acclaimed contemporary writers and the first African American male since Ralph Ellison to win the National Book Award which Johnson received in 1990 for *Middle Passage*. In addition to providing a biographical sketch, Gary Storhoff analyzes Johnson's four novels and two volumes of short stories. Describing his body of work as unique in American fiction, Storhoff explains how philosophical and religious orientations differentiate Johnson's writings and challenge his readers. Storhoff explores the merging of Johnson's philosophical and spiritual interests with his concern for African American culture. In identifying the literary principles of Johnson's texts, Storhoff emphasizes the writer's commitment to Buddhism and demonstrates its impact on his themes, characters, narratives, and rhetoric. Suggesting that Buddhism is the linchpin of Johnson's work, Storhoff acknowledges that scholars and critics are aware of Johnson's close association with the tradition but provides readers with what they need to appreciate fully its importance in his work, which includes a Ph.D. in the subject. Storhoff explicates the influence of the British empiricists, including Bishop George Berkeley, on the novelist; his rejection of relativism and utilitarianism; his adaptation of Aristotelian ethics; and his ambivalent treatment of American pragmatism as recently propounded by Cornel West. Johnson emerges from Storhoff's discussion as a profoundly eclectic, sophisticated interdisciplinary writer with complex views on race relations in the twenty-first century.

Charles Johnson's Novels Rudolph P. Byrd, 2005-06-13

This is truly a major contribution to African American literary criticism and it promises to elevate Johnson to the place in the literary firmament he so richly deserves. Henry Louis Gates Jr., Harvard University.

Charles Johnson came of age during the Black Arts Movement of the 1960s and 1970s. His fiction bears the imprint of his formal training as a philosopher and his work as a journalist and cartoonist with a well-honed interest in political satire. Mentored by the American writer John Gardner, Johnson is preoccupied with questions of morality which are informed by his knowledge of Continental and Asian philosophical traditions. In this book, Rudolph Byrd examines Johnson's four novels: *Faith* and *the Good Thing*, *Oxherding Tale*, *Middle Passage* (National Book Award Winner), and *Dreamer* under the rubric of philosophical black fiction as art that interrogates experience. Byrd contends that Johnson suspends shelves and brackets all presuppositions regarding African American life. This bracketing accomplished, the African American experience becomes a pure field of appearances within two poles: consciousness and the people or phenomena to which it is related. Johnson's principal themes are identity and liberation. Intent upon the liberation of perception for the reader and the writer, Johnson's fiction aims at whole sight encompassing a plurality of meanings across a symbolic geography of forms, texts, and traditions from within the matrix of African American life and culture. And like a palimpsest, Johnson's texts contain multiple layers of meaning of disparate origins imprinted over time with varying degrees of visibility and significance. *Charles Johnson's Novels* will appeal to fans of the writer's work but it also will serve as a helpful guide for readers newly introduced to this brilliant contemporary American writer. *African*

American Review, 2008 As the official publication of the Division on Black American Literature and Culture of the Modern Language Association of America African American review promotes an exchange among writers and scholars in the arts humanities and social sciences who hold diverse perspectives of African American literature and culture *The Greenwood Encyclopedia of African American Literature: I-N* Hans A. Ostrom, J. David Macey, 2005 Designed to meet the needs of high school students undergraduates and general readers this encyclopedia is the most comprehensive reference available on African American literature from its origins to the present Other works include many brief entries or offer extended biographical sketches of a limited selection of writers This encyclopedia surpasses existing references by offering full and current coverage of a vast range of authors and topics While most of the entries are on individual authors the encyclopedia gathers together information about the genres and geographical and cultural environments in which these writers have worked and the social political and aesthetic movements in which they have participated Thus the encyclopedia gives special attention to the historical and cultural forces that have shaped African American writing Publisher **Cosmopoetics** Shameem Black, 2004 *American Novelists Since World War II*. James Richard Giles, Wanda H. Giles, 2003 Contains biographical sketches of writers who either began writing novels after 1945 or have done their most important work since then *African American Writers* Valerie Smith, 2001 Contains biographical and critical essays on the work of important African American writers *New Essays on the African American Novel* Loyal King, Linda F. Selzer, 2008-05-15 This collection contributes to and advances scholarly discussions about the African American novel as a literary form Essays respond to the general question what has been the impact of the African American vernacular tradition from the spirituals blues gospel and jazz to hip hop on the structure and style of the modern African American novel **Masterplots II.: Lov-Pla** Steven G. Kellman, 2000 Includes more than 360 interpretative essays on works of twentieth century fiction published in the United States and Latin America **Remembering the Past in Contemporary African American Fiction** Keith Eldon Byerman, 2005 Remembering the Past in Contemporary African American Fiction **Masterplots II.: Cont-Gor** Steven G. Kellman, 2000 Includes more than 360 interpretative essays on works of twentieth century fiction published in the United States and Latin America *Book Review Digest*, 2000 **The Diasporan Self** J. Lee Greene, 2008 Drawing directly from the authors novels essays and interviews Greene extracts synthesizes and narrativizes a foundational myth that the novelists collectively generate This diasporan myth and its accompanying theory of Western black Being are grounded in the historical black African diaspora Together they seek to explain the history and nature of Western blacks and thus give rise to key aspects of form and meaning in the texts Greene discusses The Diasporan Self convincingly establishes the self theorizing nature of these postmodern novels constructing from them a critical vocabulary germane to their production and interpretation *American Ethnic Writers*, 2009 Covers numerous ethnic writers and their works All major American ethnicities are covered African American Asian American Jewish American Hispanic Latino and Native American

Magical Realism in Novels of the Black World Théodore Bouabre,2004 **Obsidian III.** ,2000 **Imagining the Past** Margaret I. Jordan,2002 **Acquisitions List, African-American Collection** University of Pittsburgh. University Library System,1997

The Enigmatic Realm of **Charles Johnsons Spiritual Imagination**: Unleashing the Language is Inner Magic

In a fast-paced digital era where connections and knowledge intertwine, the enigmatic realm of language reveals its inherent magic. Its capacity to stir emotions, ignite contemplation, and catalyze profound transformations is nothing short of extraordinary. Within the captivating pages of **Charles Johnsons Spiritual Imagination** a literary masterpiece penned by a renowned author, readers set about a transformative journey, unlocking the secrets and untapped potential embedded within each word. In this evaluation, we shall explore the book's core themes, assess its distinct writing style, and delve into its lasting effect on the hearts and minds of those who partake in its reading experience.

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