

Study Questions

Albert J. Raboteau, *Slave Religion: The "Invisible Institution" in the Antebellum South*

- 1) What were the general contours of West African religion?
- 2) What elements of African religion continued in the United States, which did not take on Christian elements?
- 3) Why did African religions survive better in South America than they did in North America?
- 4) Why were Southerners not initially interested in converting their slaves to Christianity?
- 5) Did slave owners have any justification for their fear of Christian slaves?
- 6) Why did slaves become mostly Methodists and Baptists? Rather than, say, Episcopalian?
- 7) How did the Protestant denominations accommodate the slave system?
- 8) What did the process of conversion that slaves experienced look like?
- 9) In the secret "hush harbors" and in other all-slave Christian services what went on and why?
- 10) What was the relationship of the slaves to the Bible?
- 11) Music was essential to slave Christianity? What did it look like?
- 12) How did slaves understand the Christianity practiced by whites?