



# Katie's Canon: Womanism and the Soul of the Black Community

*By Katie Geneva Cannon*



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## **Katie's Canon: Womanism and the Soul of the Black Community** By Katie Geneva Cannon **Bibliography**

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### **Editorial Review**

From Publishers Weekly

In 13 essays and an appendix, Cannon charts the process of her canon formation, based on an inclusive ethic. She says that in each essay she is "conducting a three-pronged systemic analysis of race, sex and class from the perspective of African American women in the academy of religion." Her development begins with an historical detailing of what forged the black feminist consciousness. Cannon reveals how black women have found themselves to be moral agents in an African American tradition that combines both the "real-lived" texture of African American life and the oral-aural cultural tradition vital to African Americans. Cannon, the first African American woman to earn a Ph.D. from Union Theological Seminary and the first to be ordained to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament in the United Presbyterian Church USA, a womanist philosopher and a theologian, deals mainly with canonical issues and "canon formation" as she calls for an inclusive rather than an exclusive frame of reference for governing life choices. *Katie's Canon* is both provocative and enlightening.

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From Library Journal

Cannon's (ethics and women's studies, Temple Univ.) pun-intentional canon is a compilation of previously published essays, papers, and articles. An eclectic mix of literary criticism, social commentary, liberation theology, and womanist ethics, this is more of a "best of" than a systematic theology; the author's canon represents her evolving analyses of the black female experience in its totality. She excels at unpacking the literary heritage of Zora Neale Hurston and the vitality of the black oral tradition. Cannon moves easily from the passion of folklore and legend to the conceptually rich but heavily academic language of ethics and womanist theology. Her role "is to speak as 'one of the canonical boys' and as the 'noncanonical other' at one and the same time." In this, she most assuredly succeeds. For academic libraries. —Sandra Collins, SLIS, Univ. of Pittsburgh

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#### **Mamie Donnelly:**

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