



Habitations of the Veil: Metaphor and the Poetics of Black Being in African American Literature (Philosophy and Race)

Rebecka Rutledge Fisher

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A hermeneutical study of metaphor in African American literature.

In *Habitations of the Veil*, Rebecka Rutledge Fisher uses theory implicit in W. E. B. Du Bois's use of metaphor to draw out and analyze what she sees as a long tradition of philosophical metaphor in African American literature. She demonstrates how Olaudah Equiano, Frances Ellen Watkins Harper, Zora Neale Hurston, Richard Wright, and Ralph Ellison each use metaphors to develop a critical discourse capable of overcoming the limits of narrative language to convey their lived experiences. Fisher's philosophical investigations open these texts to consideration on ontological and epistemological levels, in addition to those concerned with literary craft and the politics of black identity.

"This is a book that is not for the faint of heart: it is a thinking book ... A worthy addition to the growing literary criticism of African American literature." — *San Francisco Book Review*

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