

## James Baldwin's "Go Tell It on the Mountain" - a religious approach



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***(Roosevelt Rohan)***

## JAMES BALDWIN'S "GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN" - A RELIGIOUS APPROACH



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GRIN Verlag Nov 2007, 2007. Taschenbuch. Book Condition: Neu. 210x148x2 mm. This item is printed on demand - Print on Demand Neuware - Seminar paper from the year 2001 in the subject Theology - Miscellaneous, grade: good, University of Leipzig, language: English, abstract: James Arthur Baldwin was born to Emma Berdis Jones and an unknown father on August 2, 1924, in New York City. The fact that he did not know about the identity of his biological father haunted him all his life. Who was to become Baldwin's stepfather was a laborer and Pentecostal preacher who came - as part of the Great Migration - to New York in 1919 seeking better social conditions and economic opportunities. (Kenan 1994: 26) After he married her, he began to preach in storefront churches and made a living of a job he had in a bottle factory on Long Island, and although he worked steadily, until encroaching age and illness prohibited it, were his wages seldom high enough to feed his big family<sup>2</sup>, especially during the Great Depression. (Kenan: 27) As described in Notes of a Native Son this situation had contributed to his father's intolerable bitterness of spirit. (Kenan: 88) It was unrelieved bitterness and anger that drove [his father] away permanently in 1932. (Kenan: 27) James was very much influenced and shaped by his stepfather, and the problems that derived from his relationship to him became in my eyes a powerful motor for his poetry writings and determined his future decisions. To his father the young boy's intelligence and his interest in books was but a source of danger, for the Bible was the only book worth reading. (Kenan: 29) If it wasn't for Orilla Bill Miller, a white woman from the Midwest who stepped up against...



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