



Ústav anglofonních literatur a kultur

OPPONENT'S REPORT

B.A. THESIS

Reflections on Religion: Richard Wright and James Baldwin

Anna Jirásková

This exceptionally researched and clearly written thesis is worth an **excellent** grade (výborně). It provides both a succinct overview of the history and contradictory functions of (predominantly Christian) religion in African-American communities, as well as an insightful reading of Wright and Baldwin's novels, essays and autobiographical texts. The differences and the similarities between the two writers' attitudes towards religion are convincingly illustrated.

My only objection is therefore not a criticism of what there is in the thesis but rather a suggestion of what there could have been also, namely a conclusion that would evaluate the central argument of the text. Could the candidate perhaps consider Wright and Baldwin's views on religion in relation to those of other Post/Modernist writers? Could she also briefly discuss Wright and Baldwin in the context of African-American literature, i.e. again situate their treatment of religion in relation to some other African-American writers? Finally, given the general focus of the thesis, there could have been a more prominent discussion of indigenous, African religions. Do they have any presence in the work of Wright and Baldwin; how are these religions treated?

Pavla Veselá, PhD.
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