

Talia Robinson

“Religion and Agency in Hurston’s *Their Eyes Were Watching God*”

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“Religion and Agency in Hurston’s *Their Eyes Were Watching God*” examines Janie Crawford, the protagonist, and her status as a Christ figure. It explores Hurston’s life as a source of the abundance of Biblical imagery and symbolism within her novel. It will also study Voodoo and the similarities between Voodoo and Christianity as a demonstration of how Hurston wishes to put both religions at the same status level. Key Biblical images within the novel are the pear tree, water, the personification of the Apostle Paul, and the number three. The pear tree and water are also connected to Voodoo practices. All of the Biblical images and the narrative structure of the novel are used to show that Hurston apotheosized Janie into a figure who is divine in both Christianity and Voodoo.