

Book Review

Jesus Acted Up

There's this wonderful book by Robert Goss called *Jesus ACTED UP* that talks about this conception of God, love-making and justice doing, in light of this tradition that I am talking about. It's one of the most powerful statements that I've read that links my own conception of what it means to be an existential democrat and a radical democrat from the Christian point of view, to the context of the gay/lesbian liberation movement. But Christians have no monopoly on this. The questions are: How do I endure compassionately? How do I continue to bring critique to bear in a loving way with no naïve utopian notions that somehow things are going to get better without struggle, or somehow struggle itself can produce perfectibility, but still be sustained in the midst of very dark and difficult times? And of course,, secular traditions have as much access to that compassionate love as religious traditions do, just as religious and secular traditions also bastardize and reinforce systemic oppression.

From The Cornel West Reader, "Christian Love and Heterosexism, New York, Basic Civitas Books," 2000, pp. 410-411