

# Womanism and Black Anthropology: In Memory of James Cone

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## ABSTRACT

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The fragmentation of black humanity by colonialism and apartheid to the 21st century, borders on the location of blacks in a white society and their constant claim to racial authenticity. The ontological negation of black bodies as subjects of being suggests that blackness is an antithesis for humanity, and to be black in a racist world is a jeopardy. The fragments can also be traced on how Black Theology of Liberation (BTL) has responded to the constructs of race and class, while apparently overlooking the detriment of patriarchy as an equal challenge to black people themselves. The article looks at the fragmented black humanity from a womanist perspective by problematising a black man as a construct, a product of capitalism with a black woman as evidence of the tendency of patriarchal violence to elude BTL and a black home being a site of struggle. By looking at a fragmented black home as context which gave rise to an era of Black Consciousness (BC), in an attempt to fix the degradation of black humanity which was harnessed by BTL, we are decentring from the Western traditional forms of theology, epistemology and life which are anti-thesis to black humanity.

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## Introduction

The diagnosis of the fragmentation of black humanity by Black Consciousness (BC), a philosophy inseparable from Black Theology of Liberation (BTL) has been, for a number of years, helpful. That colonialism and apartheid were systems that dislodged black African people from their African roots, tradition, history and culture, the primary culprits against which black people struggle for their lives, might be an accepted fact now. However, the analysis of this problem through BC and BTL has created a problem by downplaying patriarchal violence. Patriarchal violence, in this article, is understood as the inability to include women in the search for life affirming forms of liberation knowledge for black humanity. Patriarchy is understood to be violent because it has all the elements of an internal

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