

Silko's Vévé and the Web of Differing Versions [Abstract]

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In *Almanac of the Dead*, Leslie Marmon Silko asks, who has spiritual possession of the Americas? This question cannot be answered outside of Silko's premises: it is impossible for outsiders to know where Africa ends and America begins; and the truth resides in the web of differing versions. In this essay, I maintain that Silko's novel is written as a *vévé*—a crossroads where Gods and ancestors are subjects capable of narration. Using Silko's language philosophy and a through close reading of Clinton's notebooks and radio broadcasts, I argue that slavery/colonization and black/Indian must always be thought together.

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