

AYUBA SULEIMAN DIALLO (1701-1773)

THE LIFE OF A SLAVE THAT MADE IT BACK HOME

Ayuba Suleiman Diallo (Job Ben Solomon) was born in 1701 in Bondou, which is located in modern-day Senegal. He was born to a noble and prominent Muslim family and was well-educated while growing up. Even at a very young age, he was known for his intelligence and academic brilliance. He was a literate man who was able to read and write in Arabic, which was a very important and valued trait at that time. He also studied the Quran and was well-educated in Islamic matters. Thus he was a very respected and noble man. His knowledge of religious matters and other matters helped shape his mindset and ideas from then on. Furthermore, he was known as a skilled trader who was well-versed in trade. It is also reported that he was married and had multiple children.

CAPTURE AND ENSLAVEMENT

There are some differing accounts of how he got captured but all of them seem to agree on one thing. In 1731 Ayuba was tasked by his father to sell two other slaves and probably some other goods. The story goes as follows: Ayuba went to sell the slaves to a British sailor by the name of Stephen Pike. They were unable to agree on a price for the two slaves, so Ayuba decided to sell them somewhere else. After selling them for some cows, Ayuba got captured by a group of raiders and was then sold to Captain Pike as a slave. Captain Pike then took Ayuba to the colony of Maryland where he served as a slave for 1 year.

JOB BEN SOLOMON



FIGHT FOR FREEDOM

Thomas Bluett was very impressed by Ayuba's ability to write in Arabic and so decided to help him on his path to liberty and freedom. Thomas and others were able to conclude the fact that Ayuba was a Muslim based on the fact that he had refused to drink the wine they offered him and was also uttering the names Allah and Muhammad. They knew he was Muslim but they did not know where he was from so they tried looking for translators. After finding a translator they realized that Ayuba descended from a very noble family in West Africa and that his father was working for the Royal African Company. After realizing this, they allowed Ayuba to write a letter to his father asking for money in exchange for his freedom. The letter he sent reached James Oglethorpe, who was the director of the Royal African Company, and he decided that he would send the money to free Ayuba himself. He bought Ayuba for 45 British pounds, which was worth more back then. After being purchased, Ayuba was sent to the Headquarters of the Company in England. They would take him back home from England. While Ayuba was in England, he became extremely popular thanks to his education and intelligence. He even impressed British scholars. He was recorded to have written the Quran 3 times based on memory alone. Many tried to convert Ayuba to Christianity, but he was firm in his faith and instead refuted them. Eventually, the time had come for Ayuba to return home. He was certainly a very lucky man. Most slaves never saw home ever again. After returning home he lived a peaceful life and worked for the Royal African Company.

Article by: Mohammed Ibrahim

LIFE AS A SLAVE

After arriving in Maryland, Ayuba was bought by Alexander Tolsey who lived on Kent Island in Maryland. After buying him Mr. Tolsey put Ayuba to work in the fields of tobacco, but after finding out that he was not suitable for the job they put him in charge of the cattle which he was better suited at. Ayuba was a deeply religious man and he used to run away to the forests to pray. But after facing some obstacles, he decided to flee and run away. He was unsuccessful in trying to flee and ended up in prison. He was tried at the courthouse, where he met a man by the name of Thomas Bluett, who would be a very instrumental person on his path to freedom.

THE IMMORALITY OF SLAVERY

Slavery violates basic human rights. Ayuba was very lucky and was able to return home, but most slaves were enslaved their whole lives. Not only that, but their kids would also become slaves. They had to live through harsh conditions and had to work whether they liked it or not. They faced a lot of suffering due to their exploitation. Slavery is immoral. No human should have to live a life where they are beaten, forced to work, and face harsh conditions. Every human should have the right to freedom. In Islam freeing slaves is a very noble act and is a way for a person to gain the pleasure of Allah SWT, while enslaving a free man is a great sin. There is even a hadith about it: "Allah, may He be exalted, said: 'There are three whose opponent I will be on the Day of Resurrection, and whomever I oppose, I will defeat ... A man who sold a free man and consumed his price.'" (Narrated by al-Bukhari, 2227).

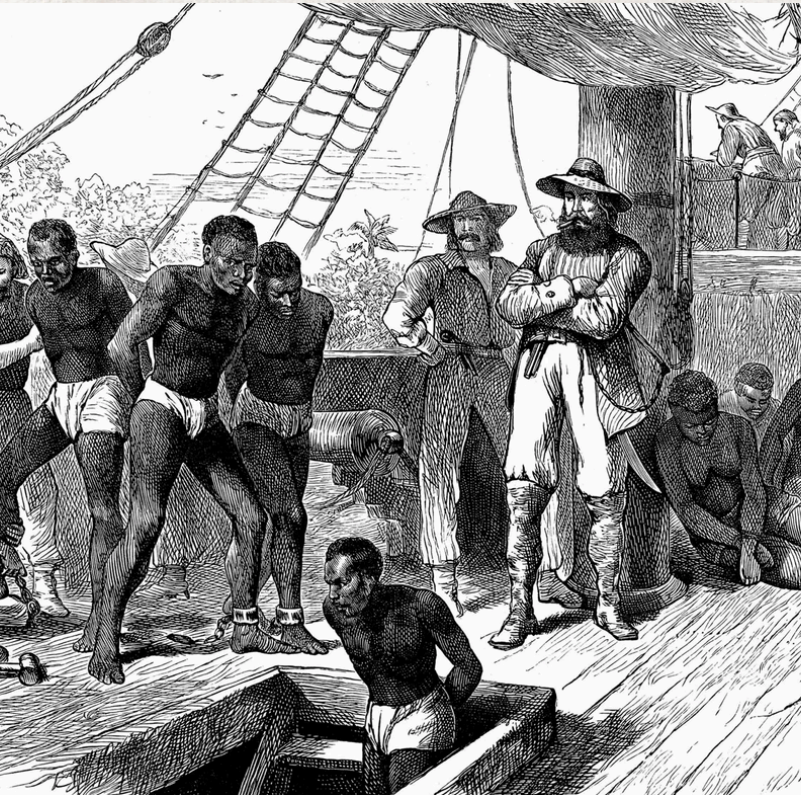


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AYYUBA SULEIMAN DIALLO



ABOUT AYYUBA

He was a Muslim who was born in West Africa to a noble family. After growing up he was captured and enslaved and was taken to America. There he fought to regain his freedom.



BIO

<i>Birth:</i> <i>1701</i>
<i>Place of Birth</i> <i>Modern day Senegal</i>
<i>Which colony he went to</i> <i>Maryland</i>
<i>Time as a slave</i> <i>1 year</i>



FUN FACTS

While visiting England he gained a lot of popularity due to his intelligence in academics.

FREEDOM

He wrote a letter in Arabic which was found by the Director of the Royal African Company which led him to freedom



QUOTE

“I AM IN A LAND WHERE MY TONGUE AND RELIGION ARE FOREIGN AND MY PLIGHT UNKNOWN. YET I DO NOT DESPAIR FOR GOD IS WITH ME”

