

# Otuvi



Here is a story about one of the West Africans who were brought here.

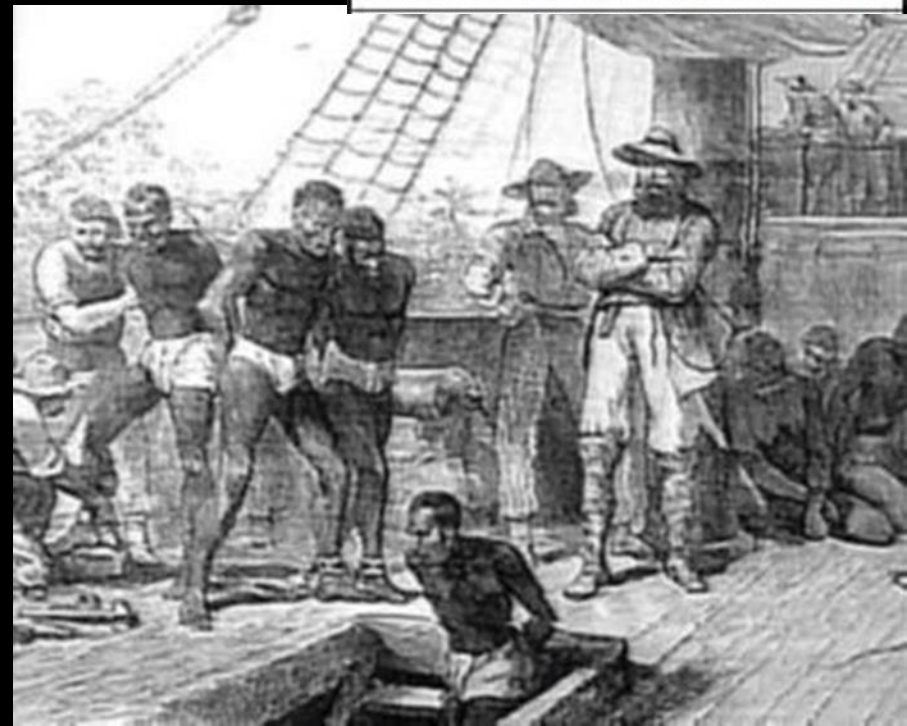
Otuvi was a little girl living in West Africa.  
As a child, she ran freely among the hills and  
valleys of the beautiful land. She roamed as  
free as a mountain lion.



Then bad times came. Some chiefs came to her village. They did not speak the native language. They took the strong men, the beautiful women and the innocent children. They tied them together with chains and herded them off like animals.



Of course, they didn't just go meekly, many resisted. Some chose death rather than being taken. Many of her family died on the beautiful hills. Blood ran like water over the land. The rest of them marched to the coast, and made to board a special ship built to carry enslaved people. The captain and crew were white.



The ship carried them away to new lands far from the shores of Africa. She travelled across the ocean in this crowded ship. They were packed into a narrow, stinking space and only allowed on deck once a day for a little exercise and fresh air. Many people died of diseases. Some killed themselves by jumping overboard. Can you imagine the stench from the hundreds of sick sweating bodies?

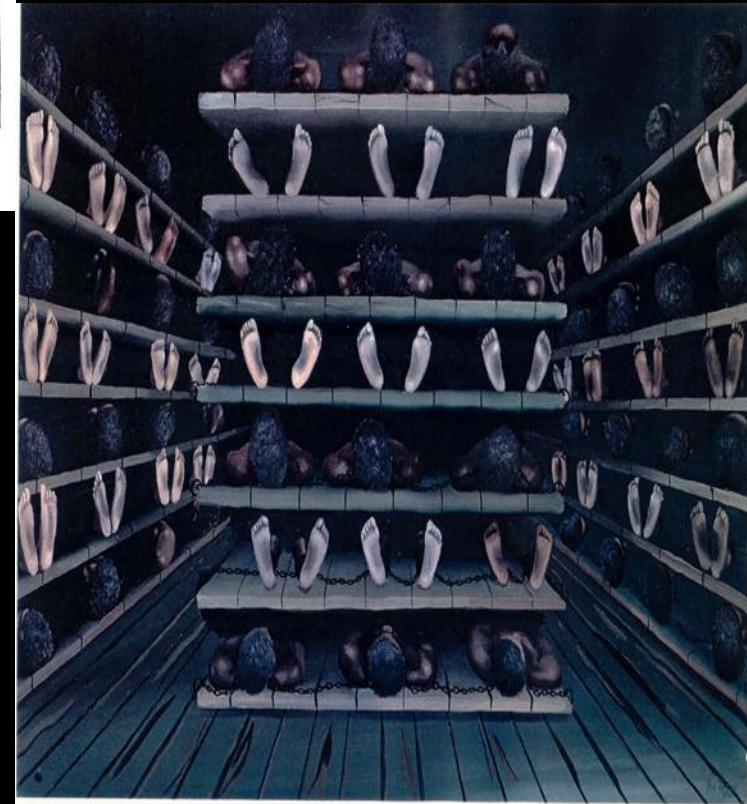


GROUP OF SLAVE-CHILDREN ON BOARD THE "DAPHNE."

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(From a Photograph by the Author.)

The groans and shrieks of the dying was like hell on earth. This dreadful voyage was known as "The Middle Passage". It was the most cruel thing for one group of people to do to another.



When they arrived in Nassau, they were taken with many other Africans to Vendue House where they were put up for sale. Rich landowners made bids for them. Whoever offered the highest amount of money became the owner.



Before the auction, they were inspected. Otuvi was looked over from head to toe, and made to open her mouth very wide so that people could see her teeth. The next thing she knew she was someone's slave, and her new owner led her away.





Otuvi was taken away to a big farm, called a plantation. Here they grew cotton, which was shipped to other countries. They grew other crops too, for them to eat. She lived with other slaves on the plantation, and they became her new family. Life was hard, but they survived.

