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Entry Nr. 035 Jacob

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Aaron Spencer Fogleman and Robert Hanserd (eds.), *Five Hundred African Voices: A Catalog of Published Accounts by Africans Enslaved in the Transatlantic Slave Trade, 1586-1936* (Philadelphia: American Philosophical Society, 2022).

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Aspects of her life story printed on p. 1772 in vol. 2, Part 3 of C. G. A. Oldendorp, *Historie der caribischen Inseln Sanct Thomas, Sanct Crux und Sanct Jan, insbesondere der dasigen Neger und der Mission der evangelischen Brüder unter denselben: kommentierte Ausgabe des vollständigen Manuskriptes aus dem Archiv der Evangelischen Brüder-Unität Herrnhut*, edited by Gudrun Meier et al. (= Volume 51 in the series *Abhandlungen und Berichte des Staatlichen Museums für Völkerkunde Dresden*). Berlin, Germany: VWB, Verlag für Wissenschaft und Bildung, 2000-2002.

Comments: None

Text of Account:

Original German –

“Jacob auf der Nordseite, ein Zuckerkoch, endigte seinen Lauf auf eine betrubte Weise. Weil seine Arbeit immer fortging und er Tag und Nacht keine Ruhe hatte, so überwältigte ihn ein Schlaf, da er bei den Zuckerkesseln auf der Kante saß, und er fiel rückwärts in den siedenden Zucker. Im Schrecken raffte er sich und kam aus dem Kessel heraus, fiel aber gleich darneben in einen andern. Da mußte er liegen, bis er Hülfe bekam, denn er befand sich im Kochhause allein. Seinen Leib hatte der kochende Zucker bis in die Eingeweide verbrannt, daß keine Rettung mehr war. Er lebte in den höchst schmerzlichen Umständen nur noch 9 Stunden. In dieser Zeit besuchte ihn der Helfer Gottfried und fand ihn in einer seligen Herzensstellung. Er bestattete auch seinen Leichnam zur Erde. Der selige Bruder war von der Socko nation, wurde im Jahr 1764 getauft und blieb von der Zeit an in seligem Umgange mit dem Heiland. Ein paar Wochen vor dem über ihn gekommenen Unglück erklärte er sich noch also. Es wäre ihm sehr wohl in seinem Herzen, ob er es gleich von außen sehr schwer hätte; was der Heiland an ihm getan hätte und noch täglich täte, das machte ihm alles erträglich. Er besuchte die Kirche, so oft er nur Zeit dazu gewinnen konnte; und er war noch in derselben den Sonntag vor seinem Heimgange.”

English translation (by Aaron Spencer Fogleman, 2022)

“On the north side [of the island], Jacob the sugar boiler ended his life in a horrible fashion. Because the work he did never ended, he could never rest day or night. One day he was overtaken by sleep as he sat on the rim of a vat for boiling sugar and fell backwards into the vat. He scrambled out screaming but then fell into another vat next to it. There he had to lie until help came because he was alone in the boiling house. The boiling sugar burned his body to his innards, so that saving him was no longer possible. He lived in a terribly painful condition for another nine hours. During this time the Helper* Gottfried visited him and found him to be in a blessed state of heart. He also buried his body in the earth. This blessed brother [Jacob] was of the Sokko nation [possibly Nsoko, in northeast Ghana] and was baptized in the year 1764, after which time he walked in a blessed state with the Savior, as he had declared a couple of weeks before his accident. All was well in his heart, even though from appearances things were very bad. Everything the Savior had done for him and still did every day enabled him to bear everything for him. He visited the church as often as he could find time to do so, and he had been there the same Sunday in which he ‘went home’ [died].”

* An indigenous convert in a Moravian missionary community who assisted the missionaries in the spiritual care of community members.

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