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Entry Nr. 107 Jonathan

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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. 1824-1825 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 –

“Jonathan auf Lagrande, ein Karabarineger, der die Wagner profession gelernet hatte, gelangte im Jahr 1755 zur Taufe und 1761 zum Abendmahl. Seine sehr rauhe Naturart störte ihn bisweilen in seinem Gnaden gange und machte ihm viel zu tun. Jedoch verlor er niemals gänzlich, was er bekommen hatte, sondern der treue Heiland brachte ihn immer bald wieder zurechte. In seiner Krankheit redete er überalle äußere und innere Umstände mit etlichen Helfern, die ihn besuchten, ganz aus. Er sehnte sich sehr nach dem bevor stehenden Abendmahle, doch wegen seiner zunehmenden Schwachheit und weiten Entfernung gab er sich darin, es zu entbehren, und sagte, wenn ihn der Heiland nehmen wollte, so wäre er fertig, er wollte es in der obern Gemeine genießen. Er entschlief dann sanft und selig im wahren Vertrauen auf Jesu Verdienst und Tod. Seine Hütte, die einen lichten und vergnügten Blick hatte, wurde durch Stephanus begraben.”

English translation (Aaron Spencer Fogleman, 2022)

“Jonathan, a Carabali Negro on Lagrand [plantation] who had learned the wagoner trade, was admitted to baptism in 1755 and the Lord’s Supper in 1761. His rough nature sometimes interrupted his path toward this grace, keeping him busy to overcome it, but he never completely lost what he had gained, and the true Savior (Jesus) always brought him back to the correct path. During his illness, with the help of certain Helpers [missionary assistants] who visited him, Jonathan spoke freely about his outer and inner needs and feelings. He longed very much to participate in the ongoing Lord’s Supper, but because of his increasing weakness and the long distance to services, he gave in to doing without them and said if the Savior wanted to take him, he was ready and would enjoy these things in the community above. Then he went to sleep peacefully and blessedly in the true belief in the work and death of Jesus. His body, which had a bright and happy look, was buried by Stephanus.”

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