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Entry Nr. 214 Margarita Lucumí

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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).

Catalog number: **214**
Name(s) of African providing account: **Margarita Lucumí**
Date account recorded: 1833
Date account first published: 1996
Date of entry creation: 20 September 2021

Source: English translation of her statement printed on p. 178-179 in VOICES OF THE ENSLAVED IN NINETEENTH-CENTURY CUBA: A DOCUMENTARY HISTORY, edited by Gloria García Rodríguez. Translated by Nancy L. Westrate. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2011. Copyright © 2011 by the University of North Carolina Press. Used by permission of the publisher. www.uncpress.org.

Comments: None

Text of Account:

English translation –

p. 178:

“Statement of Margarita Lucumi, over twenty-five, servant in the big house.

. . . (When she heard them enter the house) she spoke to them in their native language, asking them what they were doing. Some of them, she did not know who, replied that they wanted to make war. She asked them against whom they were waging this war. A black man she knew and whom everyone knew as Labrao seemed to be the leader. He responded that the war was against the whites, because they were the ones who made slaves of them, forced them to work, and punished them, and that with the war they were going to be free. And although the deponent wanted to dissuade them, they did not listen to her and stoned her twice. Unable to contain them, she shouted at the whites to leave. . . . (Then she grabbed) her two small criollo children, Domingo and Julian, by the hand. By that time, her husband Joaquin Lucumi had arrived. He was the contramayoral responsible for the bozalons. He told her to come with them because they were going to kill the whites and be free in Vuelta de Abajo. But the deponent resisted and tried to convince him and the others of their wickedness. Her husband dealt her a violent blow and

snatched her oldest son away from her. They became even more agitated and a large contingent left the farm, while another remained behind, inflicting further damage and arming themselves with stones. . . . (Later, the first contingent returned, and, observing smoke over toward the town of Banes,)

p. 179:

the deponent asked Joaquin if they had set fire to the houses. He replied, ‘What was he to do, for he was no white man’s son.’ He told her once more to come with them, chiding her for defending the whites. Seeing that she continued to defy him, he told her, ‘Well, once the master comes, he will give you your certificate of manumission’ . . .”

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