



THE
INTERESTING NARRATIVE
OF
THE LIFE
OF
OLAUDAH EQUIANO,
OR
GUSTAVUS VASSA,
THE AFRICAN.
WRITTEN BY HIMSELF.

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The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano

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Olaudah Equiano (c. 1745 – 1797), also known as Gustavus Vassa, was one of the most prominent Africans involved in the British movement of the abolition for the slave trade. His autobiography depicted the horrors of slavery and helped influence British lawmakers to abolish the slave trade through the Slave Trade Act of 1807. Despite his enslavement as a young man, he purchased his freedom and worked as a seaman, merchant and explorer in South America, the Caribbean, the Arctic, the American colonies and the United Kingdom. The book not only was an exemplary work of English literature by a new, African author, but it made Equiano's fortune. The returns gave him independence from benefactors and enabled him to fully chart his own purpose. He worked to improve economic, social and educational conditions in Africa, particularly in Sierra Leone.

- Chapter 1: *The author's account of his country, their manners and customs, &c*
- Chapter 2: *The author's birth and parentage – His being kidnapped – horrors of a slave ship*
- Chapter 3: *The author is carried to Virginia – Arrives in England – His wonder at a fall of snow*
- Chapter 4: *An account of the engagement between Admiral Boscawen and Monsieur Le Clue*
- Chapter 5: *Various interesting instances of oppression, cruelty, and extortion*
- Chapter 6: *Favourable change in the author's situation – He commences merchant with threepence*
- Chapter 7: *The author's disgust at the West Indies – Forms schemes to obtain his freedom*
- Chapter 8: *Three remarkable dreams – The author is shipwrecked on the Bahama-bank*
- Chapter 9: *The author arrives at Martinico – Meets with new difficulties, and sails for England*
- Chapter 10: *Some account of the manner of the author's conversion to the faith of Jesus Christ*
- Chapter 11: *Picking up eleven miserable men at sea in returning to England*
- Chapter 12: *Different transactions of the author's life – Petition to the Queen – Conclusion*

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