

STAGE _____

IN THIS WAY I GREW UP UNTIL I WAS TURNED THE AGE 11, WHEN AN END WAS PUT TO MY HAPPINESS IN THE FOLLOWING MANNER...ONE DAY, WHEN ALL OUR PEOPLE WERE GONE OUT TO THEIR WORKS AS USUAL AND ONLY I AND MY DEAR SISTER WERE LEFT TO MIND THE HOUSE, TWO MEN AND A WOMAN GOT OVER OUR WALLS, AND IN A MOMENT SEIZED US BOTH, AND WITHOUT GIVING US TIME TO CRY OUT OR MAKE RESISTANCE, THEY STOPPED OUR MOUTHS AND RAN OFF WITH US INTO THE NEAREST WOOD.

STAGE _____

...I CAME TO A COUNTRY THE INHABITANTS OF WHICH DIFFERED FROM US IN ALL THOSE PARTICULARS. I WAS VERY MUCH STRUCK WITH THE DIFFERENCE, ESPECIALLY WHEN I CAME AMONG A PEOPLE WHO...ATE WITHOUT WASHING THEIR HANDS. THEY COOKED ALSO IN IRON POTS AND HAD EUROPEAN CUTLASSES AND CROSSBOWS, WHICH WERE NEVER KNOWN TO US, AND FOUGHT WITH THEIR FISTS AMONGST THEMSELVES. AT LAST I CAME TO A LARGE RIVER, WHICH WAS COVERED WITH CANOES IN WHICH THE PEOPLE APPEARED TO LIVE WITH THEIR HOUSEHOLD UTENSILS AND PROVISIONS OF ALL KINDS.

STAGE _____

THE FIRST OBJECT WHICH SALUTED MY EYES WHEN I ARRIVED ON THE COAST WAS THE SEA, AND A SLAVE SHIP WHICH WAS THEN RIDING AT ANCHOR AND WAITING FOR ITS CARGO. THESE FILLED ME WITH ASTONISHMENT, WHICH WAS SOON CONVERTED INTO TERROR WHEN I WAS CARRIED ON BOARD. I WAS IMMEDIATELY HANDLED AND TOSSED UP TO SEE IF I WAS SOUND BY SOME OF THE CREW, AND I WAS NOW PERSUADED THAT I HAD GOTTEN INTO A WORLD OF BAD SPIRITS AND THAT THEY WERE GOING TO KILL ME. THEIR COMPLEXIONS TOO DIFFERING SO MUCH FROM OURS, THEIR LONG HAIR AND THE LANGUAGE THEY SPOKE...SOON AFTER THIS, THE BLACKS WHO BROUGHT ME ON BOARD WENT OFF, AND LEFT ME ABANDONED TO DESPAIR.

STAGE _____

SEVERAL OF THE STRANGERS ALSO SHOOK HANDS WITH US...AND MADE MOTIONS WITH THEIR HANDS, SIGNIFYING I SUPPOSE WE WERE TO GO TO THEIR COUNTRY; BUT WE DID NOT UNDERSTAND THEM. AT LAST, WHEN THE SHIP HAD GOT IN ALL HER CARGO, THEY MADE READY WITH MANY FEARFUL NOISES, AND WE WERE ALL PUT UNDER DECK SO THAT WE COULD NOT SEE HOW THEY MANAGED THE VESSEL...THE STENCH...NOW THAT THE WHOLE SHIP'S CARGO WERE TOGETHER BECAME ABSOLUTELY PESTILENTIAL. THE CLOSENESS OF THE PLACE AND THE HEAT OF THE CLIMATE, ADDED TO THE NUMBER IN THE SHIP, WHICH WAS SO CROWDED THAT EACH HAD SCARCELY ROOM TO TURN HIMSELF, ALMOST SUFFOCATED US.

