

The Black Female Slave

By Stephanie Awotwi-Pratt

Heat scolds her dark skin
Chains bind her hands, feet, soul, and mind

A slave.

Scars mark her body as engravings on a stone
Beaten, raped, a slave to her race.

A slave.

She trudges towards her Master half plastered in blood and sweat
Defeated.

The very ethos of her existence to live and persist.

The ship.^[1]

She recalls her brothers and sisters that jumped never to be seen again.

So as the sweat beacons from her brow, thick skin, and neck

She continues, persists, trudges towards him not to give in but to fight the war that her
brothers and sisters never got to begin.

^[1]The Zong Massacre-https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zong_massacre

This poem depicts the harsh realities for African female slaves and how they were mentally and physically tortured during Slavery.

Stephanie Awotwi-Pratt is a Gender and Women's Studies student with an interest in African and Black female experiences of oppression, racialization, and sexism. The

poem encapsulates some of the origins of racialization Black and African women faced and continually face as a direct result of colonialism. Histories of fraught race and gender relations between African women and colonized oppressors, supplement understandings of race relations today.