

[CURSE OF THE DOOR OF NO RETURN](#)

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The curse below is one of the most popular of the curses that were uttered for nearly 20 years at each "door of no return," as the various doors along the coast of Africa were called. These were the doors through which Africans were led to the waiting ships to be transported to the Americas and Caribbean to be enslaved.

THE CURSE OF THE ARROGANT DOOR

Through You, and a Thousand Doors Like You, Doors of No Return, Millions of Africans Passed.

Captured, Held Here in Bondage, Men and Women and Children, Few Older Than Thirty, Suffered in Intolerable Conditions.

In This Place, Women, 200 Strong, Would Be Kept Here in This Dungeon, Sometimes For 6 Months Before a Ship Would Come. Given Two Containers, One For Easing Themselves and One For Food, Many Became so Sick and Weak That They Eased Themselves Where They Slept. On the Floor of This Dungeon the Blood of Menses Combined With Urine and Feces to Make This One Hell-Hole of Evil.

You, the Door of No Return, Was a Silent Witness to Human Brutality. You Saw the Faces of Evil in Those Who Whipped Our Backs as We Passed Through.

You Thought We Would Not Return. You Stood By as We Slipped Through Your Portals to the Americas. You Made History and Became History as We Wept, as We Cried, Where Is God?! Where Is God?!

With Shackles and Leg Irons We Left Here, Uncertain About Our Destiny.

They Called You the Door of No Return. We Vowed as We Left Through This Door, as We Saw This Beautiful Land for the Last Time, That Our Children Would Return.

There are Things That You Did Not See: On The Thousands of Ships That Took 60 Days to Find the Americas, We Tasted Agony Often and Gloried When Someone Died Saying, Gone She to Her Mother's Country or Gone He to His Friend's Home.

You Cannot See From This Beautiful Coast the Cotton Fields of Georgia or the Sugar Cane Fields of Jamaica. You Do Not See the Banana Plantations of Costa Rica or Brazil.

Hear Me! Hear Me Now!

Have We Not Returned?! Are We Not Africa's Children? Is This Not Our Ancestors' Land?

The Dismemberment of Our Cultures, Our Religions, and Our Traditions Often Left Us Broken and Broken-Hearted.

Tortured, Beaten, Lynched, Raped, and Worked to Death in the Americas, We Have Dreamed Pre-Enslavement Dreams and Walked the Nights of This Land With Our Memories, Asking What Evil Befell Us?

Now Who Have You Seen Here? Have We Not Returned? Have I Not Brought Here the Pebbles From

the Beaches of the Lands to Which We Were Scattered? And You Are No More the Door of No-Return!

This curse was read by Molefi Kete Asante at Elmina Castle in Ghana during the 1980s and 1990s.

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APA

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Chicago

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MLA

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