

Cultural Conceptions: Muslim Africans and Arabic Slave Narrative

Muslim slaves are those Africans who came from the Central and Western Coast of Africa, including the Southern and Western Sahara. African Muslims turned to Christianity whereas Muslim slaves turned to Islam. This paper examines the slave's cultural conceptions, his religion and the impact of Islamic culture, as demonstrated in all aspects of his life, on the African Muslim slave in antebellum America. During his bondages, the Muslim slave continued to observe the customs of Islam and was devoted to live according to Shari' even in the most difficult condition, suffering and pain. In Arabic slave narratives, the Muslim slave, accepting all happenings to him as evidence of God's benevolence, rejected the slaveholder's religion and invoked the presence of Allah's [God's] controlling hand in even the most insignificant circumstance