



Frederick Douglass,
Narrative Of The Life Of Frederick Douglass.

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Frederick Douglass was born into slavery in Maryland. As an adult he escaped into freedom. He became a writer, speaker, and advocate for the abolition of slavery.

This is a passage from his autobiography.

“In a very short time after I went to live at Baltimore, my old master's youngest son Richard died; and in about three years and six months after his death, my old master, Captain Anthony, died, leaving only his son, Andrew, and daughter, Lucretia, to share his estate It was therefore necessary to have a valuation of the property, that it might be equally divided between Mrs. Lucretia and Master Andrew.

I was immediately sent for, to be valued with the other property. Here again my feelings rose up in detestation of slavery.... We were all ranked together at the valuation. Men and women, old and young, married and single, were ranked with horses, sheep, and swine. There were horses and men, cattle and women, pigs and children, all holding the same rank in the scale of being, and were all subjected to the same narrow examination.

At this moment, I saw more clearly than ever the brutalizing effects of slavery upon both slave and slaveholder. After the valuation, then came the division. I have no language to express the high excitement and deep anxiety which were felt among us poor slaves during this time. Our fate for life was now to be decided. We had no more voice in that decision than the brutes [animals] among whom we were ranked. A single word from the white men was enough—against all our wishes, prayers, and entreaties—to sunder [split apart] forever the dearest friends, dearest kindred, and strongest ties known to human beings.”



Frederick Douglass--Questions

1. In your own words, describe what happened to Frederick Douglass:
2. What event caused the valuation to happen?
3. Why were people included along with animals in the valuation?
4. What were the emotions of the enslaved people as they were divided?