



Poetic Reflections

An Experience to Remember

Jacqueline PORTER¹

St Joseph's Teachers' College, Kingston, Jamaica
porterjacqueline61@gmail.com

From Cape Coast to Kingston the journey was made,
Across the wide expanse of the Atlantic Ocean travellers arrive.
The Middle Passage crossed not by force nor with bone deep fear,
But by choice, free will exercised to establish connections.

Across the years and down through time the ancestors gazed
Witnessing the various branches of their familial tree being united.
Stories shared, lives intertwined, and the beats of Mother Africa
resounded.

The descendants all responded and the shared joys and sorrows drew
all inside.

Seville — a journey to remember, an experience never to be forgotten.
In that Great House we walked the pages of history and became part
of the story.

Our ancestors reached through time and space to embrace us
as we listen.

We responded with tears which made the years disappear
and forever bound us.

Our journey testified to how remarkable we are as a people.
From different lands, with different stories, different lives are
now united.

The stories heard as children now take on new meaning because
now we know.

The stories of both the slaves and the slave masters are now equally
owned in our flesh.

¹ Jacqueline Porter was a participant in the TWP. A Roman Catholic by birth and by choice, she is a teacher-educator by profession. She is a member of Faculty in the Humanities Department of St Joseph's Teachers' College in Kingston, Jamaica.