

Camden's Slave Block

By: Sandra Turner-Barnes

***Much more than merely flesh and bone
Was paraded and sold here upon this stone
The hearts and souls of our African Nations
The hopes and dreams of our future generations
Valued less than cattle or other live stock
Purchased right here on Camden's Slave Block***

***Brilliant Black Minds tormented on evil slave ships
Beautiful Black bodies broken by bloody bullwhips
Our language stolen, our tongues taught to lie
They silenced our drums, laughed when we cried
Our values, our morals, they'd ignore or mock
Thought they'd brought those too, on Camden's Slave Block***

***A Black mother cried here, every sale day
Her own children cruelly snatched, and sold away
Her breasts would now have new mouths to feed
Her womb forced to nurture the slave master's seed
And each night, her shackles he'd unlock
His property, purchased here on Camden's Slave Block***

*Here, many a Black man hung his head in shame
His family ripped apart, his manhood never the same
Chained, hand and foot, and about his neck
Those he dearly loved, he was unable to protect
In his own land, brave and strong as rock
But not here, on Camden's cruel Slave Block*

*That was nearly 300 years ago, and yet only a few blocks away
A tragic life continues for many poor Blacks today
Though Master has moved on with his stolen wealth
He left behind systems that keep us enslaving ourselves
So we've never been set free of Slavery's time clock
Or allowed to walk away whole from Camden's Slave Block*

*They forbid us to read and yet dared us to die
So for some, reading's not as important as getting high
Today they still take away dignity, replace jobs with guns
Who's dying on the block today? Lord, now we're not the only ones
Can't you hear history screaming? Tick Tock, Tick Tock...
You see, no one's been set free of Camden's Slave Block*

***Blacks in America will forever carry Slavery's residue,
But slave owner descendants, today there's new shame on you
There are history lessons to be taught, Humanity lessons to be learned
You inherited the wealth and privilege that our ancestors earned
And today, the future stands waiting, here on this historical spot,
Can we begin a healing process from Camden's Slave Block???
The Ancestors stand here without tears, on Camden's Slave Block,
Lord, we're all finally here, without fear, on Camden's Slave Block!***

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