



SAINT JOSEPHINE BAKHITA

Bakhita was living in Sudan as a slave. She was sold and given away many times. Her owners often treated her cruelly, beating her up so bad that she had many scars on her body.

When Bakhita was nine-years-old, Arab slave traders kidnapped her and her friend. She was forced to walk barefoot to the slave market, hundreds of miles away.

Bakhita was sold to the Italian Consul. When it was time for him to return, she begged to be taken along to Italy. There she was gifted to another family.

When her new mistress was going abroad, she left Bakhita in the convent of the Canossian sisters in Venice. They treated her with great kindness.

God, how beautiful are the stars tonight. I want to serve the 'Master of all things'

God created the universe and we all are children of God.

Who created these stars and the moon?

In the eyes of God you are so valuable. We are slaves too. We are servants of Jesus and through him to all the people.

But how can God love a slave?

When her mistress returned back from her travels, Bakhita refused to leave the convent.

I aspire for a religious life.

Bakhita, what you will do, if you see your cruel masters again?

I will kneel and kiss their hands.

I thank my kidnapers and have already forgiven them. It was because of them I came to know Jesus.

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