



## THE IMAGERY OF THE SLAVE TRADE IN P. MERIME'S STORY "TAMANGO"

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**Abstract.** *The article contains details about the slavery that continued in the 19th century, the slave trade brought to Europe, and comments about the bitter life of slaves.*

**Key words:** *slave, captive, bandi, slave, race, black, negro.*

Humanity has gone through a long period called slavery. This period was a period of humiliation of man by man. later, the higher thinking reached by the human race determines that a person can be hanged, shot, executed, but not humiliated. However, the solution to this was far from over. A person was chained, shackled, then brought to the market and sold according to his condition - "quality". Prosper Mérimée, one of the great representatives of French literature of the 19th century, tells the story of such slavery and slave trade in a small work called "Tamango".

One of the heroes of the story is Ledu. He was one of the brave sailors of his time. During the battle, his left hand is injured and amputated. The restless sailor continues his career as an assistant to the captain of a private vessel. After a few years, this sailor, who is well-versed in shipbuilding and shipwork, becomes the captain of a private ship with a crew of sixty people.

Ledu, a truly brave and strong person. Accordingly, the owner of a cruel character. He was also a peerless man in the "black tree" trade, that is, in the negro slave trade. A two-masted sailing ship adapted for the transport of slaves is named "Ishanch".

This ship was so adapted that it would accommodate a dozen more negroes than any other such ship. Even in the passageways, slaves were placed, that is, a person without a will to be sold. Of course, not all of these slaves would reach their destination. the slave woman and the slave children who died on the way, who could not bear the unbearable pain of the journey, and who were physically weak, were thrown into the sea. Ledoux knew it would happen. But he had high hopes for the rest of the slaves.

Tamango is one of the negroes involved in the African slave trade, a negro himself. But he is a famous fighter. Ruthless merchant. He captures many Negroes like himself and brings them to the trading post, usually selling them at very low prices. He believes in driving and selling new goods faster. He has two wives, and also has his own dealers and supervisors. It turns out that Tamango met Ledu, a slave trader coming from Europe to take slaves.

Ledu is also a trader and Tamango is also a trader. Tamango is the white man among the black men, he behaves like this, he almost feels like an "aristocrat". During the trade, they drink and have fun - one side buys slaves and the other side buys slaves



and has fun, drinks and has fun. he drinks a lot, the more he drinks, the French lowers the price, the price of human goods falls to the ground, the owner of Tamango reluctantly gives in.

Slaves for sale are brought in rows, slaves bent over from exhaustion, human commodities crippled by fear. They are tied with ropes around their necks, they cannot pass through narrow places.

Purchased slaves are stripped of their shackles, instead of shackles. While looking at his future slaves, who were being lined up in rows without having been taken away, Ledoux would pay attention to the weakness of the men, the old age or the extreme youth of the women, shrug his shoulders, mumble to himself, and feel sorry for the blood of the black race.

Everything is grinding," he says. - It was different before. Women were tall. Men are strong.

Ledu selects the strongest and most beautiful blacks. These can be paid at regular rates. He gets the rest only at discount prices.

Tamango comes from his own interest - he praises his goods - human goods, human slaves. And again, he says that there are few people - he means slaves for sale - and that the human - slave trade is becoming dangerous.

Therefore, the slave trade was past its heyday. This can be seen from the fact that there are few slaves left. Secondly, control over this activity has increased. This job is dangerous.

The whole horror of slave labor is now revealed in the bargaining process. The ship is full of slaves. About thirty prisoners remained. These are children, old people, sick women.

Tamango offers: a bottle of vodka for each prisoner.

Ledu knows well that the human body is compressible. Based on this, he takes the twenty thinnest slaves from the remaining thirty prisoners in exchange for a bottle of water.

There are ten more prisoners. The price of a person will decrease even more: for each of the remaining ten items, Tamango puts the price of a glass of vodka.

Ledu takes three more captive children in exchange for a glass of vodka, relying on the small bodies of the children.

Seeing that it is impossible to pass the remaining seven prisoners, Tamango takes a rifle and aims at the first woman in the line and says to Ledu.

-Buy it or I'll kill it! A glass of vodka or I'll shoot it.

This woman was the mother of the three children Ledu bought last. Tamango, after hearing Ledu's words expressing her indifferent and cold attitude, shoots the woman.

This is where all the wildness of Tamango is revealed. In fact, he himself is a Negro. He drives the representatives of his own race captive and sells them as slaves. A negro sells a negro. In a broad sense, man sells man.



Ledu? She take away and sell. She is also human.

Children, old people, women in the story... Are they human too? In general, who is a person, how is he defined.

Man (philosophically defined as "the highest stage of a living organism... the subject of socio-historical activity and culture" (2, 769).

Is the tone of all creation worthy of its name? What about our age? Has human trafficking been completely abolished.

The great writer P. Merime, who was born exactly 220 years ago (1803), showed the darkest black spot on the face of humanity - the slave trade, through his short story "Tamango", and also the ideas of the need to be aware of this scourge at all times. presented by.

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