

# Angelo Solimann, Son of African Prince, Refused Greatest Honors



The Amazing Story of a Black Slave Who Became Adviser to Europe's Leading Rulers.

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WHAT men with the ability to be great scientists, poets, thinkers, musicians, and artists are even now roaming the jungles of Africa and are only waiting for the quickening touch of civilization to come forth and dazzle the world with their gifts is proved by the number of Negroes, who led by fate, have come to Europe from time to time to hold high rank there.

Among the foremost of these was Angelo Solimann.

### Born in Congo.

Solimann, it seems, was born in the Congo about 1740. He was one of the thousands and thousands of children torn away from family and tribe by raiders and scattered in the slave-markets of North Africa and the New World.

Thus his early history has come only from his own lips, and from what his childish memory has been able to recall. He was about seven at the time.

He says that he was the son of an African prince who ruled a kingdom called Gangusilan. His family's name, he said, was Manni-Famory and his own Mmadi-

Mmaky. He said he recalled the great respect with which his father was treated and the number of his servitors.

### Clever Child.

As a child he was clever with the bow and arrow and could bring down with ease birds on the wing. He was also adept in dancing and in singing the songs of his native land, which made him a favorite with the tribe.

One day as he was playing beside his mother while the latter was nursing his sister, another tribe, probably incited by the slave-hunters, descended on his people. His grandfather gave the alarm, and his father rushed out to meet the enemy, while Angelo ran off into the woods with another boy and hid behind a tree.

This was the last he ever saw any of his parents alive, for peeping from behind the tree, he saw his father and his grandfather fall under the spears of the attackers. Others of the tribe now rushed out but they were beaten back and either killed or captured.

Later Angelo and his companion were discovered, and led off prisoners.

### Exchanged for Horse.

Arriving at the sea-coast he was exchanged for a horse and taken to the wharf. Here he found many of his tribe, awaiting shipment. He looked anxiously for his mother

and his sister but they were not among them. He tried to learn something of their fate, but the others were afraid to talk, and soon after he was separated from his people forever.

They probably were shipped on to America while he was taken to North Africa by his master.

Here, desolate with homesickness and the sad fate of his family, he was set to minding camels.

### Given to Countess.

The years passed and one day a rich Italian on a visit to North Africa, saw the young slave and was so impressed by his splendid bearing and his gentle and amiable ways that he bought him, and taking him to Sicily, presented him to one of the richest ladies there, the Countess Solimann.

Soon after his arrival he fell very ill and the countess got the best medical attendance for him and showered every attention on him. Among her attendants was a Negro woman, named Angelina, who was particularly kind to him.

When he was cured, the countess, who had decided to adopt him into her own family, arranged for his baptism into the Christian faith. When asked by her what Christian name he would like, for hitherto he had been known by his African one, he replied: "Angelo," in recognition of Angelina's care.

### Loved by All

Shortly after he was baptized with all the ceremonies befitting one belonging to a noble household, and as time went on he made himself dear to everybody by his goodness of heart, his just spirit, and the astonishing manner in which he progressed with his studies.

As to dress he did not wear the Italian costume but one that was rather Oriental in taste, it having been specially designed for him by a leading Italian artist. It was simple but beautiful in its lines, a flow-

ing costume of dazzling whiteness, which, it is said, "showed off to great advantage the black, velvety color of the skin." As head-dress he wore a turban ornamented with an aigret and a diamond of the purest water.

### Remarkably Gifted

But Angelo was not destined to remain with the family that loved him so much, and which he loved so deeply in return. One day the Prince Lobkowitz, Austrian general, and one of the great dignitaries of the Austrian Court, visited the Countess Solimann. The prince met Angelo and talked with him, and was so impressed with his well-proportioned body, the nobility of his features, and his wit and intelligence that he expressed a desire to have him as one of his personal attendants.

At that time all Italy belonged to Austria, and when one so great as the imperial general, said he wished anything, it was regarded as equal to a command. The countess yielded him to the prince and once more Angelo found himself separated from his loved ones.

### Apt Pupil

The first few weeks with the prince were unhappy ones for him, for the latter went off leaving him to the care of his major-domo, with the instruction that he should be taught German. This he mastered so rapidly that, it is said, in "17 days" he could write and speak that language with a fair degree of fluency.

On the prince's return he became his attendant and soon afterwards he became his esteemed friend and confidant. In the wars that followed he fought by the prince's side, and one day when the latter was wounded, he carried him off the battlefield on his shoulders.

In the years that ensued Angelo became skilled in military tactics, and proved such an intrepid warrior, that, it is said that Marshall Lacy, commander-in-chief of the Austrian armies, "who esteemed him a great deal, praised him in front of the whole army, and presented him with a superb Turkish sword, and offered him the command of a company."

But this would have taken him away from the prince and Angelo declined.

### Next to Prince

In reality, Angelo stood next to the prince. Those who had favors to ask of the prince had to approach him through Angelo—a task which, it is said, Angelo filled with such tact, kindness, and irreproachable conduct, that he won the high opinion of all.

Some years later the prince died and his last request of Angelo was that he should enter the service of the prince's best friend, the General, Prince Wenceslaus of Lichtenstein.

At the same time Francis I, Emperor of Rome, hearing of the death of Prince Lobkowitz, sent a messenger to Angelo, offering him a high place in his service. But Angelo had

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What Would You Do If You Doubted Your Husband's Fidelity?

See what MARCIA CARTER did in

## NICE CHILD

a Short Story by Blanche Taylor Dickinson.

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