

JOURNAL ENTRY: *NARRATIVE OF THE LIFE OF A SLAVE*

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For me, knowledge has always been about power. I've always wanted to know more; and if I can't figure something out, I ask about it or read about it. An example of this thirst was my reading Carl Sagan this last summer. I wanted to know more about the origins of the universe, so I found a book of his at the public library in town. I learned little about astronomy; however, his theories on God and the existence of man drew me in. Even though Frederick Douglass and I come from different educational backgrounds, as he was repressed in his learning and I was encouraged in mine, I find several similarities. Though there was extreme difference in our methods and reasons for learning, knowledge has meant power for both of us. I was inspired by his desire to learn at any cost. He did everything in his power to better himself. He risked the punishment of the slave-owners and bartered for knowledge with food. I made a connection with Douglass because of this thirst for knowledge. I admired his willingness and his drive to succeed through all his oppression. I believe that the only thing that kept him going was the will to learn. I can't ever imagine being a slave, but I hope that knowledge would be my freedom.