Kywonna Drake

Magee

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Marie Laveau

The very beautiful Marie Laveau, the Voodoo Queen was born on September 10, 1794 of New Orleans, Louisiana. Marie Laveau was the first of her maternal line to be born free. It started with her great-grandmother, Marguerite Henry. During the late eighteenth century, Marguerite and her daughter Catherine were held in slavery by a white Creole man by the name of Henry Roche Belaire (KnowLa Encyclopedia). Catherine became pregnant by a white man which was believed to be Roche-Belaire. Marguerite Henry was the daughter of Catherine and was set free from slavery by Henry Roche-Blaire in 1790. Marguerite had a relationship with Charles Laveaux, a successful businessman which resulted in the birth of Marie Laveau, the Voodoo Queen (KnowLa Encyclopedia).

As far as her career is concerned, Marie Laveau was a hairdresser who mostly dealt with rich, white people. She later became a nurse. According to the “Voodoo on the Bayou” article, Marie was skilled in the practice of medicine and knew the healing qualities of herbs. She had a lot of concern for the soul. Her specialty was finance and romance. She was the first commercial Voodoo Queen. Marie was all-knowing, all-powerful, and she could help others get, keep, or get rid of a lover. Laveau had two husbands by the names of Jacques Paris who died in 1820 from unexplained circumstances and Christophe Glapion who died in 1835. Marie and Christophe had a daughter by the same name as Marie, Marie Laveau II. It was said that her daughter looks just like her and followed in her mother’s footsteps as Voodoo Queen. Some say that the daughter was much more successful than the mother (Voodoo on the Bayou).

There is a country song that was performed by Bobby Bare called “Marie Laveau.” I listened to this song on YouTube and the song goes like this:

Down in Louisiana, where the black trees grow

Lives a voodoo lady named Marie Laveau

Got a black cat’s tooth and a Mojo bone

And anyone who wouldn’t leave her alone

She’d go (GROWL) another man gone (YouTube).

She lives in a swamp in a hollow log

With a one-eyed snake and a three-legged dog

She’s got a bent, bony body and stringy hair

If she ever seen y’all messin’ round there

She’d go (GROWL) another man gone (YouTube).

Voodoo in New Orleans, Louisiana was very popular back in the day and it still remains popular today. Laveau will forever be remembered in the city of New Orleans. She was respected, but also feared by many people. Marie Laveau’s marriage certificate is preserved in Saint Louis Cathedral in New Orleans, the French Quarter hotel known as The Historic French Market Inn has a bar named the ‘Marie Laveau Lounge’ on Decatur Street (Wikipedia) , and to this day, people still vistit her tomb with the hope that she will grant their wishes (Voodoo on the Bayou).

Works Cited Page

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