

The *Loya* is located near a big market and the scale. It will be much finer, and is more beautiful, than Barcelona's *Loya*. Merchants of Germany—Heinrich Sporer and Conrad Humpiss, both from Ravensburg, and their colleagues—did us much honour, taking us out one by one and bringing us back, and inviting us, and furnishing us with other clothes, as if nothing were too much.¹ May we be able to repay them or their friends.

Of Human Slaves for sale

IN A CERTAIN HOUSE I SAW humans of both sexes for sale; also younger and older children. They were from Tenerife, one of the Canary Islands in the Atlantic Ocean.² After the King of Spain put down an insurrection raised against him, this island sold the people.³ There was one merchant from Valencia, who brought 87 in one ship. Fourteen of them died, unable to endure the seas and the winds and he had the others to sell. They are dark-skinned like Berbers, not black. The women were well made with strong limbs and tall enough; but they are beastly in their ways because until now they have lived under no law but have all been idolatrous. The Canary Isle is fruitful for growing sugar. The owner of the slaves told me that sugar canes on Canary are six and seven paces in length, and as thick as a forearm.⁴ They have many animals, various fruits and barley. Nor do they eat bread, but grind toasted barley with a hand mill, steep it in water or milk and both eat and drink it for nourishment. In the same way they eat meat in plenty, boiled and baked. The victorious King gave them to the Bishop and had a church built. According to report they have been instructed in our religion.⁵ They all used to walk around naked but now use clothes like us. Oh what teaching does, and care that makes beasts in human form manly and gentle! If I had not seen these many people I would not have presumed to write this. There are seven Canary Islands, of

¹ The Ravensburg Company's main exports from Germany were coarse linen and fustian, both locally made. Saffron was the import from Spain, which repatriated the company's money.

² Perez Embid, Russell, ca da Mosto and Fernandez Armesto. Prince Henry tried to gain possession of the Canaries from 1424 till he died in 1460, and Portugal did not acquiesce in Castilian domination until 1479. Ca da Mosto visited the islands and described primitive islanders. Spanish practice was harsh, though Canarians of social standing found protection and welcome in colonial society.

³ Fernandez Armesto, Verlinden and Heers, *Barbary Corsairs*. The royal governor of Gran Canaria lured native men into his caravelles and sold them as slaves in Andalusian ports.

⁴ Fernandez Armesto. Large sugar mills had master, miller, refiners, assistants and 20 or more mostly black slaves, and accommodated farmers selling cane and merchants buying sugar.

⁵ *Ibid.* In practice the Crown appointed to all benefices. Guanches on Tenerife were devoted to the local Christian cult. A Moorish convert to Christianity was denounced for saying he had been converted by force.