



**Discours et représentations de l'esclavage au siècle des Lumières dans les
textes juridiques, encyclopédiques et littéraires.**

Abstract

The literary work of the 18th century elaborates the singular representation which overtakes the dogmatism and disputes the regression of the European society. The discussion whether philosophic, literary or judicial concern themselves with man and his social frame. On the basis of this, our work which articulates around the theme “Discussion and representation of slavery in literary, judicial and encyclopedic texts in the age of enlightenment” explores and elaborates the different types of discussion around the question of slavery in the 18th century with the aim to study the statements and the modalities of representation of the other. This work allows not only the emergence of a new voice, which was previously seldom heard or studied but it also invites us to reinterrogate the age of enlightenment with relation to the question of slavery and to bring to light a subject that is in the middle of transformation. Firstly, we shall be examining the judicial nature of the black slave and his anthropological status, moving forward we'll concern ourselves with the representation, position and the controversies of discussions of the eminent people over the question of slavery. We'll be concluding the study with the study of abolition of slavery, heritage of the eminent people and political and their anthropological discussions. The abolition of slavery has reinstated a philanthropic discussion whose dynamics transcend the previous convictions around it and open the perspective of equality and humanity. Our study proposes to bring to the light their historic complexity and to rethink our responsibility to them, an ensemble of questions and problems. The study further questions with respect to a historic perspective, the origin, the development and the rupture in the continuity of a particular type of discussion based on the premise of racial discrimination and an incertitude about the anthropological values of the Africans and their relations with others