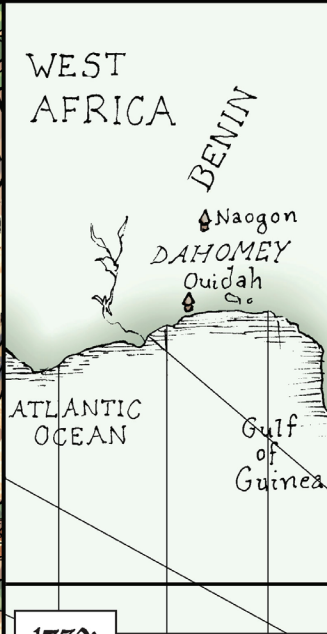


DOMINGOS ÁLVARES

DOMINGOS ÁLVARES WAS ONE OF MORE THAN TWELVE MILLION AFRICANS ENSLAVED TO LABOR IN THE AMERICAS. BUT THIS DID NOT DEFINE HIS IDENTITY. AS HISTORIAN JAMES SWEET TELLS US, HE WAS A HEALER WHO CREATED A COMMUNITY AND A NETWORK AROUND HIM WHEREVER HE WENT...



1710: DOMINGOS ÁLVARES WAS BORN IN A SMALL COMMUNITY CALLED NAOGON, IN WEST AFRICA, WHERE HE TRAINED AS A PRIEST WHO COULD HEAL BOTH BODILY ILLNESS AND COMMUNITY PROBLEMS.



1730: THE KING OF DAHOMEY, SEEKING TO EXTEND HIS CONTROL, TARGETED PRIESTS AND HEALERS WHO HE SAW AS A CHALLENGE TO HIS POWER. ÁLVARES WAS CAPTURED AND SOLD TO EUROPEAN SLAVERS.



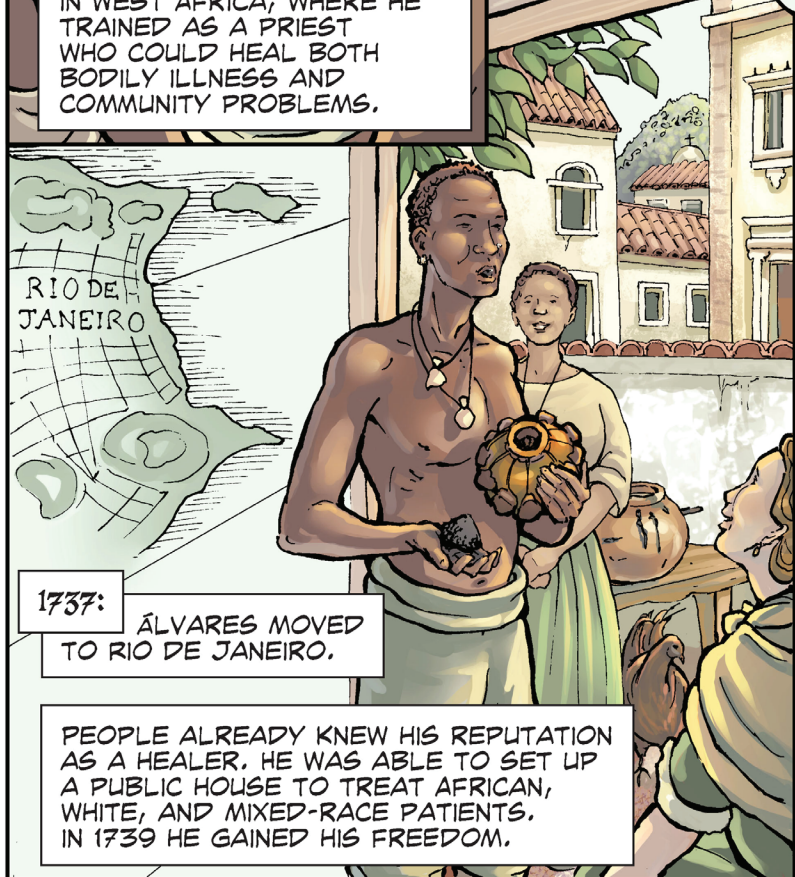
1731: ÁLVARES ARRIVED IN THE SUGAR-GROWING TAPIREMA REGION OF BRAZIL. WORKING CONDITIONS WERE BRUTAL. HE SAW A GREAT DEMAND FOR HIS HEALING SKILLS.



1733: ÁLVARES WAS SOLD TO A MAN NAMED JACINTO DE FREITAS, IN THE TOWN OF RECIFE. HERE, HE BEGAN TO PRACTICE HIS HEALING ONCE MORE, AND TO BUILD A COMMUNITY.



BUT JACINTO WAS SUSPICIOUS OF HIM AND CONTROLLED HIS MOVEMENTS. WHEN JACINTO'S FAMILY MYSTERIOUSLY BEGAN TO SUFFER ILLNESSES, HE ORDERED ÁLVARES JAILED.



1737: ÁLVARES MOVED TO RIO DE JANEIRO.

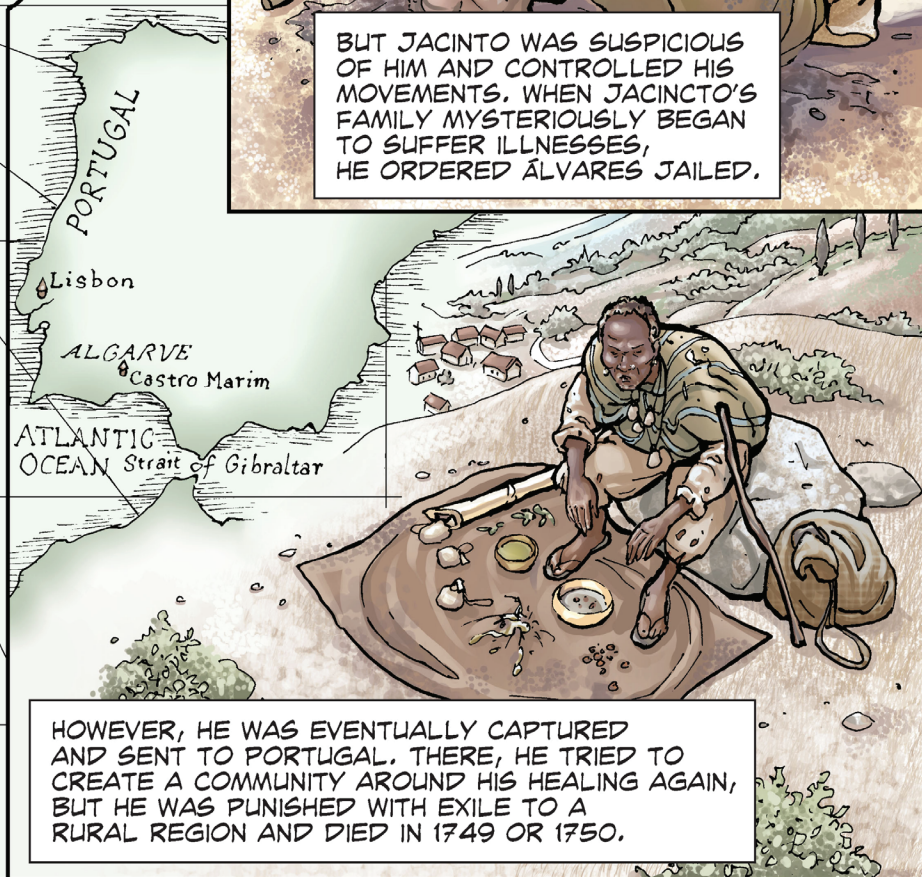
PEOPLE ALREADY KNEW HIS REPUTATION AS A HEALER. HE WAS ABLE TO SET UP A PUBLIC HOUSE TO TREAT AFRICAN, WHITE, AND MIXED-RACE PATIENTS. IN 1739 HE GAINED HIS FREEDOM.

Author-Lindsay Ehrisman

Artist-Liz Clarke



1740-1742: BUT THE CATHOLIC CHURCH WAS SUSPICIOUS OF THE RELIGIOUS COMPONENTS OF HIS PRACTICE. THEY CONVINCED THE PORTUGUESE AUTHORITIES OF BRAZIL TO IMPRISON HIM. ÁLVARES FLED, AND BECAME AN ITINERANT HEALER, GATHERING A WIDESPREAD GROUP OF FOLLOWERS AND PATIENTS.



HOWEVER, HE WAS EVENTUALLY CAPTURED AND SENT TO PORTUGAL. THERE, HE TRIED TO CREATE A COMMUNITY AROUND HIS HEALING AGAIN, BUT HE WAS PUNISHED WITH EXILE TO A RURAL REGION AND DIED IN 1749 OR 1750.