

...Do they think that men who have been able to enjoy the blessing of liberty will calmly see it snatched away? They supported their chains only so long as they did not know any condition of life more happy than that of slavery. But today, when they have left it, if they had a thousand lives they would sacrifice them all rather than be forced into slavery again. But no, the same hand which has broken our chains will not enslave us anew. France will not revoke her principles; she will not withdraw from us the greatest of her benefits. She will protect us against all our enemies; she will not permit her ... morality to be perverted, those principles which do her most honor to be destroyed, her most beautiful achievement to be degraded, and her Decree ... which so honors humanity to be revoked. But if to re-establish slaves in San Domingo, this was done, then I declare to you it would be to attempt the impossible; we have known how to face dangers to obtain our liberty, we shall know how to brave death to maintain it...

-Toussaint Louverture, "Letter to the Leaders of the French Revolution" (1797) excerpt.