

Bukka White

"Rememberance Of Charlie Patton"

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Always wanted to be like old Charlie Patton.
Long ago when I was a kid, I hear him an
Play those numbers about:
'I'll hitch up my buggy and saddle my black mare'

An I used to pick cotton an come around
In Clarksdale after them cafes, eatin' cheese
An cracker.
None of the other boys they didn't have an idea
What I was thinkin'.
I say, I wants to come to be a great man like
Charlie Patton, but I didn't want to get killed
He did, the way he got killed, the way he had to go.
I've always realized I knew I had to die but I didn't
Want one of those ol' sand-foot woman, womens to
Come up and cut my throat or do somethin' to me
That was unnecessary.

And so goes on down and got me old piece a-guitar.
And I always wanted to play about
'Hitch up my buggy, saddle up my black mare'
'I wanna find my baby in this great big world,
somewhere.'

And I got chance before he was passed.
So, he wasn't even thinkin' about passing.
And I shaked his hand once, his brother in Clarksdale
Have a brother that work at The Compress.
And I said, if I ever lived to get half way grown
Or grown, I would wanna be just like Charlie Patton was.

An after I heard about his death
After I got might near grown
I would have liked at that time
To met the one that caused
Him to have that dead. 'Cause he was a great boy.
And ah, he used to play-a, a number by
'Old blue jumped the rabbit and they runnin' one sold
mile'
'When the rabbit fell dead, he cried just like a child'.
And you know I felt so good over that I quit eatin'
rabbit.

'Cause them rabbit you know do holler when the dog
Catch up to 'em. He could bit in a newborn baby
And they was screamin' and cry'nin'.
And ah, after I hear, Charlie Patton went on
An play that number, I 'cide I just stop eat rabbit
If had my dog catch 'em and I take away from 'em.

And so as I went on to say, you know Clarksdale
Is a little old small town that-a-way.
A lot of good boys been in there.
But in traveling through them little small town
Like that, a good thing I found a good man can do
Is take it easy and take his time and don't fool with
Things that you don't have. Ah, that's not worthwhile.
You don't have time even, to fool around with.
Just take life easy.
'Cause ev'rything shine like gold
And gold you know, they's a lot of brass
You know, shine like gold.

And so Charlie Patton used to sing that song about
'Hitch up my buggy and saddle up my black mare'
And I hear, would just knock me off my feet.
I was bare-footed, little bare-footed boy, too.
And I like it so well after I growed up, the first
Record I put out when I was comin' up about
'Downtown women sickin' them dogs on me'.
I was one that kind-a compare with it.
Ah, I think I made a pretty good hit on that!

But now, I done forgot I don't play it so much.
But at that time he was goin' so good, you know?
And ah, if he's got any friends or relative
His mother or father wherever might be
To hear me sayin' that I just wanna let 'em know
That:
'Old remember, never do be forgotten'.
Things that then went on, you know.

So, I gratulates to it.
To all his friends, his cousins, to ev'rything.
I tried to be the second behind old Big Charlie Patton.

He really did.
And to tell you the truth
The first drank of whiskey that I ever dranken
Charlie Patton give me a little in a spoon.
He said, 'You're too young to drink too much whiskey'
But I'm 'onna give you enough to know what it's about.
And I still think about that.
I wish I'd aks him to gimme the spoon.

And so, while we're here
I rather thinkin' of old time thing like that
We've got to take thing 'un of consideration.
You know thing like that
Suppose to bring a man mind back.

If you're goin' too fast
You're suppose to take a consideration
An settle down, and think about.
'Cause that's your best you can hardly get over.

I just wish the day I could shake Charlie Patton hand.

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