

Johnny Cash "Ride This Train (Part 7)"

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Ride this train to Dyess Arkansas see this cottonland
Some of us are so poor now you'd have to sell 'em a
sack of fertilizer
To raise an umbrella
They grade the cotton according to the length and
strength of the fibre
And they been raisin' a lot of fair to middlin' grade
here which ain't good
But there was a time
Yeah there was a time when the cotton grew tall
Not far from here I had the finest plantation you ever
saw
About 600 acres of the finest cottonland in the country
Now I believe this was about 1855 and I had a bumper
crop that year
I had the best bunch of slaves you ever saw and I
treated 'em right
Well a lot of em even stayed with me after the war
But gettin' back to what I was gonna tell you
See I have a rule that all the slaves got to be back in out
of the fields
And accounted for by sundown every day
And one day when they came in there was one short
Well I found out right away that it was old uncle Moses
that was missin'
And figured that somethin' might have happened to
him old as he was
So I went out into the cottonfield to look for him
Well uncle Moses was way down at the end of the road
sittin' on his cottonsack
Well I walked up and said Uncle Moses don't you know
the rule

That you're supposed to be punished if you're not back
in and accounted for by dark
And he said Boss Jack I know that sir
But I was pickin' along on my road
And all of a sudden somethin' seemed to come over
me
And the finest words started comin' through my head
and the finest music
So I rememorized them words and that music till I had

it all in my head
Now that I got the song all through I guess Boss Jack
I was ready to take my punishment
Well I didn't hardly know what to say
But I asked Uncle Moses to sing that song for me
And he stood up there and for the first time he sang
Swing Low Sweet Chariot
Well after that I kinda laid old Uncle Moses off and let
him peddle around the house
And every night at dark you could hear him sing
And he sang another song once in a while that made
me feel awful proud

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