

Ride This Train (Part 7)

Johnny Cash

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 fer
tilizer
To raise an umbrella
They grade the cotton according to the length and strength of t
he fibre
And they been raisin' a lot of fair to middlin' grade here whic
h 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 r
ight
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 wa
s 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 a
ccounted 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 fin
est music
So I memorized 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 pe
ddle 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 awfu
l proud