

**BETSY'S FREAK**

"Yes, mista, I grieve tell you now. Dar was a big pine knot tree fairly roarin' in de chimney, an' Gran' Betsy had all her chilluns in dar, an' she had hol' ob Lige an' Prissy an' was soun'ly 'em in a big tub ob water, an' a scrubbin' 'em same's if dey be a greasy floor. Jaks an' Bill, dey done scrubbed an' had on daif clean clothes, an' was stannin' by lookin' on as solomun's if massa done kotched 'em ridin' dat colt ag'in, an' Lucy an' Mariah dey done all dress up in daif finery, wid a red ribbon bow at daif fronts an' daif Sunday head handkerchers on. Dey nebber look round nor take no notice ob no, so I jus' walk rite in an' say, 'For de Lawd sake, Gran' Betsy, what is you doin' ridin' ob kittle' breakus for de white fokes?' When I say dat, Gran' Betsy, she riz herself rite straight up an' say: 'I done cook my las' breakus for white fokes. De Lawd tote me to git ready, me an' my chilluns, an' he gwine sen' a gold carriage by sunup to take me up to hebbin, whar we'll git a good breakus done cook for us. He say de gates ob hebbin' gwine to open while for de gold carriage to ride us straight fro, an' de snow white parson's is all made an' a-waitin' for us to put 'em on, an' walk 'bout de gablets streets wid nuffin to do but sing, jus' like quality fokes."

"Den she grab up Lige an' gin to scrub him ag'in, an' got otten dar quick 'bout, for seem like Gran' Betsy done gone crazy or de devil's in her shere. Den I come to wake you up, mista."

"You did quite right, Tom. Tell your master to send Yellow Jane down to take Betsy's place."

This old negress' religious ideas were in a fearful jumble. She had doubtless heard de Bible read, and de portions that made most impression on her mind took such hold of her vivid imagination that de incidents became a part of her life and experience. She undoubtedly shaped her conversion by Paul's, and Elijah's translation gives de clew to de freak which is de subject of my narration.

After a little while I went into motha's room. She had begun to dress herself hastily as soon as Tom had got enough in his story for her to understand de state of things in de kitchen and was now ready to go with Libbie, de house servant, and superintend de cooking of breakfast. My curiosity prompted me to follow her into de kitchen.

When we entered de door we found Betsy and her family at de lower end of de room. De youngest child was on her lap, and de others were seated around on chairs and boxes. "Well, Betsy," said my motha pleasantly, "I thought your carriage would have come before dis."

The negress raised her head defiantly when motha began to speak and turned her face half away from her, but de tone and words were so different from what she expected that de right expression of her countenance softened as she replied, "De Lawd'll take his own time, mista."

Motha said nothing more, but ordered Libbie to rejoin de fire.

I took a stand in one corner of de broad fireplace and furtively watched de group at de other end of de room. De older girls seemed to be in perfect sympathy with de motha, but de younger children, who had been kept in subordination by de novelty of de motha's actions, were now fast becoming restive. De youngest, soon yielded to de sportive effects of his warm bath, but I could hear Bill and Jack bargain to be released, to which entrealties she would reply: "Sot still, won't ye? De carriage must come. Den whar wud ye be?"

When my motha had de breakfast cooked, she very considerably left enough hominy, potatoes and gravy for de hungry children, and from de rush of footsteps toward de fireplace after we left de kitchen we concluded that either de mutiny was beyond control or Gran' Betsy was not so far removed from sublimity things as to refuse a savory ready cooked breakfast, even if it must be eaten outside de gates of hebbin.

Such was her faith that she remaind waitin' at her post all day, but de children got beyond her control. The girls began to show signs of doubt when dinner was past and deir motha's hopes not realized. They became sulky and at last ventured to leave deir seats and go about deir usual duties. By dis time de smaller ones had lost all trace of deir morning's abstinence and with faces begrimed with dirt and grease and deir clothes wud were in a sad plight to begin a journey heavenward.

My motha bore with Betsy's whim with de greatest patience. Yellow Jane came and prepared dinner and did all de work. Just before de sun went down my brooder put his head inside de kitchen door and called out, "Say, Gran' Betsy, how about dat 'golden carriage' now? Betsy, who never lacked an answer on ordinary occasions, was not forgotten dis time by her ready wit. "De Lawd has been tryin' my faith, Marse Jorge," she replied. "He's jus' done it to see if 'Ise true in' him."

She sat patiently waitin' till de sun was quite down, and then, as I was standing near a window through which I had a view of her, I saw her rise hastily, pull off her best clothes and quickly put on her work dress and begin to hustle around. I heard her say to Yellow Jane, who had commenced preparations for supper: "You git outen dis kitchen, nigger. Dair's no bit fitten for marse's supper. You kin cook for niggers and pore white fokes, but I dus de cookin' in de kitchen for shere." And den I know Betsy's dream was over—New Orleans Times.

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**SECOND OFFENSE.**

Husband—I made a fool of myself in a fearful jumble. She had doubtless heard de Bible read, and de portions that made most impression on her mind took such hold of her vivid imagination that de incidents became a part of her life and experience. She undoubtedly shaped her conversion by Paul's, and Elijah's translation gives de clew to de freak which is de subject of my narration.

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Lv Jacksonville	7:50 p m	9:00 a m
Lv Savannah	12:10 a m	1:10 p m
Lv Columbia	5:30 a m	6:45 p m
Ar Hamlet	8:35 a m	10:10 p m
Lv Atlanta, t	8:00 p m	12:00 m
Lv Charlotte, t	5:01 a m	7:23 p m
Lv Monroe	5:40 a m	8:35 p m
Ar Hamlet	7:10 a m	10:00 p m
Lv Hamlet	7:30 a m	8:50 a m
Lv Raleigh	11:00 a m	11:45 a m
Ar Norfolk	1:15 p m	3:35 p m
Ar Weldon	2:50 p m	5:00 a m
Ar Portsmouth	5:30 p m	8:00 a m
<b>SOUTHBOUND.</b>	33	41.
Lv Portsmouth	8:50 p m	9:25 a m
Lv Weldon	11:30 p m	11:55 a m
Lv Norfolk Jet	1:30 a m	1:40 p m
Ar Raleigh	3:40 a m	3:50 p m
Ar Hamlet	7:15 a m	7:30 p m
Lv Hamlet	7:35 a m	10:15 p m
Ar Wilmington	12:45 a m	
Ar Monroe	2:15 a m	11:55 p m
Ar Charlotte, t	10:05 a m	10:45 p m
Ar Atlanta, t	3:55 p m	7:40 a m
Lv Hamlet	7:25 a m	10:10 p m
Ar Columbia	9:55 a m	12:15 p m
Ar Savannah	2:25 p m	4:40 a m
Ar Jacksonville	7:00 p m	8:55 a m
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