

I'm Not a Good Slave

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I'm not good

At living in a degraded state

No matter that the 13th Amendment says it's okay.

Whips make me rage!

I won't bear a shackle

Because of one mistake

Or a thousand I might make

— So the would-be masters claim,

While doing worse in the state's name.

I'm not a good slave!

I was born to be free,

To be all that I can be,

Not be caged!

Just because most fail to feel

Their loss of liberty

Doesn't make the bonds less real

For me!

I'm not a good slave!

This war I seen to have been born in

May not have a happy ending

But I'll be glad if I still say,

With one foot in my grave:

"I'm not a good slave!"