

Don't Ever Let Them Sing

You ask me how to break your slaves.

Well, surely you must know

To keep them toiling hard all day

And whip them when they're slow;

To keep all schooling from their skulls

And sell away their kin;

To have your preacher warn them that

Rebellion is a sin.

However, I don't think you know

This most important thing:

If you want your slaves to know their place,

Don't ever let them sing.

Their songs sound mighty innocent;

No cause for consternation.

They'd have you think they're praising God

And praying for salvation.

They sing those hymns to Moses;
He's from Exodus, 'tis true,
But when they rail at Pharaoh,
They are execrating YOU.

And songs about their aim to reach
The Promised Land someday
Are really underhanded schemes
To up and run away.

So be sure that you do not forget
This most important thing:
If you want to keep those slaves in line,
Don't ever let them sing.