

[All Puffed Up]

LIVING FOLKLORE

Herman Partnow

ALL PUFFED UP WID PRIDE [?]

Brother, [?] is you saved?..... Is you saved from sin?

(HUH!)

You nevuh sinned, brother?

(No!)

N-o-o-o?...You're all puffed up wid pride, aintcha - my...son....

Listen, Ah heard dere wuz a man who died on de [craws?] for me. An I wuz baptized in de knowledge uh [?] [?] and wuz saved - by de beloved Father and de Ho-o-o-ly Ghost.

(GWAN, LEMME ALONE!)

Does yuh desahre de key, son, to de Kingdom [zuh?] Hevven? Den wash yuhself in de blud uh de lamb, son. In de knowledge uh dat is SALVASHUN.

(DE KEY? HERE'S DE KEY...MAZUMA:)

A-a-a-h, no, my son. You is blinded an mis-guided. You is deaf, [an?] you is mis'able....

(YEAH!)

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Son, doncha wanna save your soul from de livin HELL?

(SOUL? WOT'S DAT? WHERE IS IT? IN MY LIVER, IN MY LUNGS, IN MY BELLY?
WHAT'S ITS ADDRESS?)

Address?...L-o-o-o-r', son, it ain't got no address, de soul hasn't. Least, I can't tell yuh....
De Lord he says it's in de Bible and he made it, he should know. But de knowledge
thereof, son, de Lord God, in his almighty wisdom, he hid it f'om me until I reach de next
worl'.

(NEXT WOILD! DON' KNOW DE PLACE. NEVAH HOID OF IT.)

[?]

No?...I've heard of it, son. I knows it.... Listen, [?] Ise not livin now, son...Ahse waitin -dat's
all. Ahse purparin an ahse purgin myself f'om all evil.

(NOT ME!)

Aintcha 'fraid?... Aintcha 'fraid yuh may go to de livin HELL?

(N-A-A-A! I KNOW IF I DO I'M GONNA MEET LOTS A PEOPLE DOWN DERE. YOU
TOO!)

Mercy, n-o-o-o. I don' wanna see you down dere, [?] son . You'll look so strange an terrible
wid fire all around yuh...No, indeed.... Purge [?] yo' heart, son.....

O.K. AMERICA [?] Me American. Starve! Starve! Eat!...Wot? Wot?...Air...Ai-r-r-r-r.
O.K. America... Har! Har! Har!....You bastahrds, you LAHFF... O.K. AMERICA....'Scoose,
pleeze...'Scooze...Ah, ME ti-r-r-r-ed.... Look, cut on finger...Blood. See. Same. You. Me.
Wop, sheeny, dutchman, mickie. Same. All. Sure. Blood. Blood....You believe God? God!
Bah!.... (GETS ON HIND LEGS, MAKING GESTURE OF DOG WAVING TAIL)...Nah-

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h.... Wu-r-r-k. Fah-h-hm!.... A-h-h-h! Go-o-od! Pleeze, mistah, dime... (YANKS HEAD ON SIDE, APING BEGGAR)....Dime, misteh, pleeze....Bah!... Eight [?] millio-o-on peebul. [?] [Moneee?] Peebul. Star-r-rve. Eight mil-.... Eins, zwei, drei, fur.... (HOPS ON HIS FEET AND TURNS AROUND AND AROUND)D-R-R-R-R-R.... Tu-r-r-rn ar-r-r-oun' and ar-r-r-oun'. You. You. You. Dizzie!.....Har!. Har!. Har!. You bastahr-r-r-de, you LAHFF, you!... (SHAKES HIS FIST AT THE HIGH BUILDINGS) [??] Soon cry, C-R-R-R-Y..... O.K. AMERICA!

I AM THAT I AM

[[?],you You know de things you shouldn't know and the things you should know you don't know at all.*1]

I KNOW YOU. START HERE

How can you know me when I don't know myself.*1

HELL, WHO ARE YOU ANYWAY?

I am what I am because I am.

WHY?

Because I am that I am. I was before you will be. And you are what I ain't. And -what's more, you can't even be an ain't.

YOU'LL [?] GO TO HELL FOR SUCH TALK.

How can I go there when I'm there already. Hell's here -inside me.

Heaven's inside me. I'm as high and as low as the earth.

LISTEN [?].

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I know before I listen and I listen before I know.[*2]

Hag, hag. *2 I'LL GET THE BEST OF YOU YET.

How can you get the best of me when you can't get the best of yourself? [???] [?]

WAIT, YOU SEE, I'LL GET YOU TOMORROW.

Why should I wait for tomorrow when tomorrow will come to me.

Listen, [?] I'VE GOT SOME MONEY IN MY HAND HERE, I'II-

You haven't got the money. The money's got you. [?] Aw, DRY UP, WILL YUH?

C'MON, BREAK IT UP, BOYS.

C'mon, break it up. Hire a hall. C'mon, beat it. Yuh're blockin dah [?]. road. C'mon, boys, break it up.