

## [One of Ophelia's Reminiscences]

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Folklore

398 wds.

(Verbatim Conversation)

(One of Ophelia's reminiscences of the days before her last son died.)

“Jake you done what I tell you? You aint fetch dat dog to he rightful home yit?”

“Aw ma, 'e eye done told me I 'e best friend. Can't you see how hongry 'e been ebber since 'e borned. 'E two side done mos' growed togedder. I done steady (study) pow'ful lot 'bout dem rib 'round he middle since me hand run obber dem. Aint you ebber been hongry ma? Ef you hab you done forgit, 'cause you is growed mighty wide dese day. Dem pot licker an' tater, aint dey for fat you? Maybe a little ob dem now an' den to dis dog aint go lose we nuttin an' 'e sho plead wid 'e eye, an' 'e mout (mouth) watuh when 'e nose ketch de good smell you know how to mek in dis house. Ma, he a pretty smat (smart) dog. Gib em a chance to let dem rib run down a possum.”

“Here Jake, git out ob dis house wid dat honnery dog.”

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“Aw ma.”

“Shut you mout, aint I go tell you go fetch some 'e dat meat dere in de safe fust? Now t'ink ob dem lean rib you done brung in here an' leab you own be. You is git you stomach full when I done de cabbage an' dat fish stew what I going to mek yo' pa. It nuttin but wuk in dis place. It de wash tub, den it de flo to scrub, an' yo' pa want 2 ebery t'ing 'e stomach t'ink 'bout, an' now you done brang anodder mout to full up. I aint go doubt de Holy Scripture when 'e say, 'De Lord will provide.' Lef em be, son, an' maybe dem hollow side 'e hab lef no hant on we when 'e dead. A hant a bad t'ing an' a animal hant more scare den any odder.

Did 'e side fat up? You aint knowed em in two week, an' de possum an' de rabbit 'e drap in us pot mek dat boy eye shine, an' when Jake dead, Slats (the dog) aint ebber no mo good, 'e grieb so, an' I nus (nurse) em jes lak 'e been Jake. Jake want em so.”

Source: Ophelia Jemison, Addison Ct, Charleston, S. C.