

NO NEED TO SAY “GOOD MORNING” (TRS) Jim Terr © 2017

(setup: *Teddy and the Roughriders are camping out at Lincoln Park, a beautiful spot in Las Vegas NM surrounded by some of the best “Railroad” homes. First verse or two is sung by a wealthy robber baron-type local citizen, walking along with his little Chow-Chow and singing to himself about how he doesn’t have to say hello to ragamuffins. Later, Teddy turns the tables on him*):

As I venture out this morning, this fine September day.
I celebrate my freedom to proceed along my way
In solitude, except as I may wish to greet a man.
And then, only such a one as has some silk gloves in his hands.

(*someone passes and says “Good day, sir”, and he snorts*)

I clawed my way up to the top of fine society,
And peer from there at the world below, my wife, my Chow and me.
Whate’er I wish at my command, a gentle peace inside.
Secure in God’s great wish that my good fortune I’ll abide.

(*someone passes and says “Good morning”, and he barely, resentfully, nods*)

I shall not stoop to any man, though etiquette dictate
That I should bid “Good morning” or “Good day” at any rate.
Most all do call me master, sure none do call me slave,
And I will have no senseless talk like “Good morning” and “Good day.”

(*Toward him on the sidewalk comes Teddy Roosevelt, accompanied by several men including the two men he previously ignored, who seem to indicate this to Roosevelt. He almost obsequiously says “Good morning, General Roosevelt. A fine good day, is it not?” Roosevelt ignores him, and sings to his guys*):

I too think I’ve attained a height by adventures brave and grand.
I’ve camped out in the dirt and shared poor food with all my men.
I’ve wrestled them there on the ground with no shirt on my chest
And gracefully surrendered when they got of me the best.

So I have no use for grandees better than their fellow man.
Only in matters (in cause)of highest state would I shake their tender hand.
A throne imagined above the rest is vanity quite depraved.
So with extra special pleasure I decline to say “Good day.”

(*his men laugh and sing*):

“He’s not too grand to be our man and he declines to say GOOD DAY.” (laugh more)

