

Goodbye, Brother

Source:

William Francis Allen, C.P. Ware and Lucy Kim Garrison
Slave Songs of the United States, 1867

Reprint, New York: Dover Publications, Inc., 1995

Collected by Captain James S. Rogers.



1. Good - bye, bro - ther, good - bye, bro - ther, If I don't see you more;



Now God bless you, now God bless you, If I don't see you more.

2. We part in the body but we meet in the spirit,
We'll meet in the heaven in the blessed* kingdom.
3. So good-bye, brother, good-bye, sister;
Now God bless you, now God bless you.

*Glorious

Background Information

"Sung at the breaking up of a midnight meeting after the death of a soldier. These midnight *wails* are very solemn to me, and exhibit the sadness of the present mingled with the joyful hope of the future. I have known the negroes to get together in groups of six or eight around a small fire, and sing and pray alternately from nine o'clock till three the next morning, after the death of one of their number."

Capt. James S. Rogers