



Moby-Dick (American 1851)

vs.

The Whale (British 1851)

Chapter 1

bear it. But even this wears off in time.
What of it, if some old hunks of a sea-captain orders me to
get a broom and sweep down the decks? What does that
indignity amount to, weighed, I mean, in the scales of the New
Testament? Do you think the archangel Gabriel thinks any-
thing the less of me, because I promptly and respectfully obey
that old hunk in that particular instance? Who ain't a slave?
Tell me that. Well, then, however the old sea-captains may
order me about—however they may thump and punch me
about, I have the satisfaction of knowing that it is all right;
that everybody else is one way or other served in much the
same way—either in a physical or metaphysical point of view,
that is; and so the universal thump is passed round, and all
hands should rub each other's shoulder-blades, and be
content.
Again, I always go to sea as a sailor, because they make
a point of paying me for my trouble, whereas they never pay
passengers a single penny that I ever heard of. On the con-
trary, passengers themselves must pay. And there is all the
difference in the world between paying and being paid. The

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orders me to get a broom and sweep down the
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ment? Who is not a slave? Tell me that. Well,
then, however the old sea-captains may order me
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universal thump is passed round, and all hands
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Again, I always go to sea as a sailor, because
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What of it, if some old hunks of a sea-captain orders me to

get a broom and sweep down the decks? What does that indignity amount to, weighed, I mean, in the scales of the New Testament? Do you think the archangel Gabriel thinks anything the less of me, because I promptly and respectfully obey that old hunk in that particular instance? Who aint a slave?

Tell me that. Well, then, however the old sea-captains may order me about—however they may thump and punch about, I have the satisfaction of knowing that it is all right that everybody else is one way or other served in much the same way—either in a physical or metaphysical point of view; that is; and so the universal thump is passed round, a sailor's hands should rub each other's shoulder-blades, and be content.

Again, I always go to sea as a sailor, because they make a point of paying me for my trouble, whereas they never paid passengers a single penny that I ever heard of. On the contrary, passengers themselves must pay. And there is a difference in the world between paying and being paid.

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Sequence from Versions of Moby-Dick Created by: Test Administrator		
Witness	Revision Step	Narration
Moby-Dick (American 1851) - Chapter 1	... ? Who aint a slave? ...	Ishmael's question, expressed in demotic English, also voices Melville's empathy for the working classes and America's black underclasses, evident throughout his writing career.
The Whale (British 1851) - Vol. 1 - Chapter 1	... New Testa- / ment? Who is not a slave? Tell me that....	The decision, probably by a British editor, to correct Ishmael's grammar,
<input type="button" value="Delete"/>		<input type="button" value="Cancel"/> <input type="button" value="Save"/>