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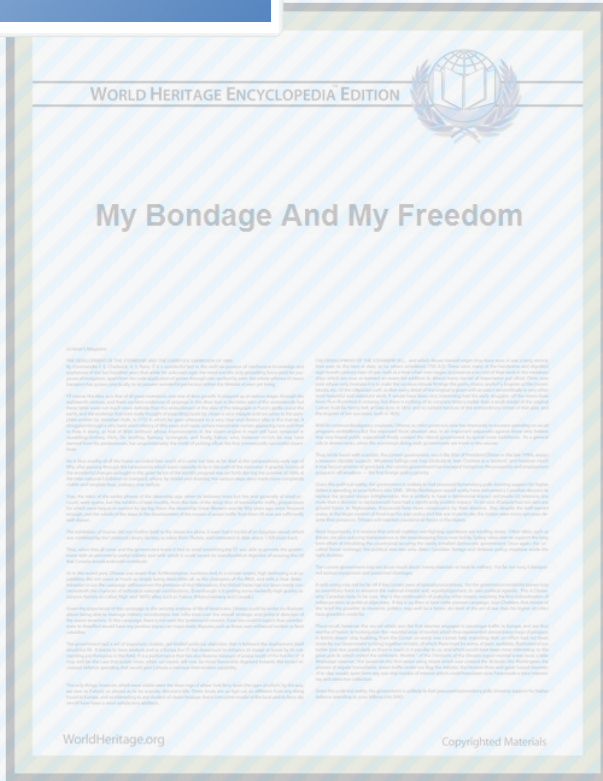
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MY BONDAGE AND MY FREEDOM

My Bondage and My Freedom is an autobiographical slave narrative written by Frederick Douglass and published in 1855. It is the second of three autobiographies written by Douglass, and is mainly an expansion of his first (*Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*), discussing in greater detail his transition from bondage to liberty. Following this liberation, Douglass, a former slave, went on to become a prominent abolitionist, speaker, author, and publisher.

In his foreword to the 2003 Modern Library paperback edition, John Stauffer writes: "My Bondage and My Freedom," [is] a deep meditation on the meaning of slavery, race, and freedom, and on the power of faith and literacy, as well as a portrait of an individual and a nation a few years before the Civil War. As his narrative unfolds, Frederick Douglass—abolitionist, journalist, orator, and one of the most powerful voices to emerge from the American civil rights movement—transforms himself from slave to fugitive to reformer, leaving behind a legacy of social, intellectual, and political thought. The 1855 text includes Douglass's original Appendix, composed of excerpts from the author's speeches as well as a letter he wrote to his former master.

SEE ALSO

The Heroic Slave, a heartwarming *Narrative of the Adventures of Madison Washington, in Pursuit of Liberty* (1852), a fiction book by Douglass based on the experiences of Madison Washington.

Life and Times of Frederick Douglass (1881), Douglass' fuller slave narrative memoir.

Frederick Douglass, *My Bondage and My Freedom: Part I- Life as a Slave, Part II- Life as a Freeman* with an introduction by James M'Cune Smith. New York and Auburn: Miller, Orton & Mulligan (1855); ed. John Stauffer, Random House (2003) ISBN 0-8129-7031-4

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