

Sojourner Truth's "Ain't I a Woman?" Speech

"Well, children, where there is so much racket, there must be something out of kilter, I think between the Negroes of the South and the women of the North - all talking about rights - the white men will be in a fix pretty soon. But what's all this talking about?" ... "That man over there says that women need to be helped into carriages, and lifted over ditches, and to have the best place everywhere. Nobody helps *me* any best place. *And ain't I a woman?*..." "Look at me! Look at my arm. I have plowed, I have planted and I have gathered into barns. And no man could head me. *And ain't I a woman?*" ... "I could work as much, and eat as much as man - when I could get it - and bear the lash as well! *And ain't I a woman?* I have borne children and seen most of them sold into slavery, and when I cried out with a mother's grief, none but Jesus heard me. *And ain't I a woman?*"