



Chapter I

A man of humanity

One cold evening in February, the two men were having a talk.

The first one was not a gentleman. He was just a low man who was trying to move up in the world. He was a trader.

The second one, the owner of the house, was a gentleman. His name was Mr. Shelby.

“That’s what I should do”, said Mr. Shelby.

“I can’t sell only Tom. I need a boy or a girl to be sold together with him.”

“Only because of my troubles I should sell my right hand. In fact, Tom manages my whole farm. He has a good heart.”

“You know, many people can’t understand that niggers can have a good heart.”

“Tom has become a religious person and since then I believed him. I even let him go around the country and he always returned to me.”

“I think religion is a valuable thing in nigger. Many people want to buy only religious niggers and they pay more money for them. Still I can’t sell only him for that sum of money you need. Do you have a boy or a girl to sell together with Tom?”

At this moment, the door opened and a small boy, between four and five years, came into the room. He was very handsome. He had curly black hair, large dark eyes, full of fire and softness, long lashes and brown skin.

“Hi, Jim Crow!” – said Mr. Shelby.

Then the master asked the boy to dance and sing and the child did it really well. After that, he parodied some people so that the gentleman and the trader laughed a lot.

Some minutes later, the door opened again and a young beautiful woman, about twenty-five, entered the room. She was the boy’s mother.

“Sorry, sir! I was looking for Harry.”

“Well, take him away then,” said Mr. Shelby; and the woman with a child went out of the room.

"You can sell that girl in Orleans, any day, for over a thousand dollars," said the trader.

"I don't want to sell her", answered Mr. Shelby, "My wife wouldn't let me sell her for any money in the world. I tell you, Haley, this must not be spoken of; I say no, and I mean no."

"Well, let me have the boy instead," said the trader. "I've got a friend who wants to buy up handsome boys to raise for the market. He'll be a waiter or will open the doors when visitors come."

"I wouldn't like to sell him," said Mr. Shelby, thoughtfully; "I'm a humane man, and I hate to take the boy from his mother, sir."

"I don't like the traders who just pull a woman's child out of her arms and then sell them. You should get the girl off for a day, or a week. Humanity, sir, is the great part of my management."

"I'll think about all and talk with my wife," said Mr. Shelby. "Call me today in the evening and I will answer you about our business."

Then the trader left the house.

Eliza heard that the trader wanted to sell her boy, so she was very upset and inattentive. Mrs. Shelby saw that her servant was not well and reassured her that nobody would sell Eliza's son.

TASKS

I. Match the words with their translation.

1. humanity	a) власник
2. move up	b) гуманний
3. trader	c) виховувати
4. owner	d) виходити
5. manage	e) гуманність
6. nigger	f) справа
7. religious	g) симпатичний (про чоловіків)
8. religion	h) тягти
9. valuable	i) релігія
10. handsome	j) керувати
11. beautiful	k) офіціант
12. instead	l) запевняти
13. buy up	m) вдумливий, вдумливо
14. raise	n) керування
15. waiter	o) просуватися вперед
16. thoughtfully	p) викупати
17. humane	q) цінний
18. pull	r) негр
19. get off	s) замість
20. management	t) релігійний
21. business	u) гарний
22. reassure	v) торговець