

Follow the Drinking Gourd

Chorus - [G] Follow the [Dm] drinking gourd,
[G] Follow the [Dm] drinking gourd,
For the [F] old man is a [C] waitin' for to [Dm] carry you to [Am] freedom,
[Dm] Follow the [Am] drinking [Dm] gourd.

[Dm] Now the river bank'll make a mighty good road,
[G] The dead trees will [Dm] show you the way.
[F] Left foot, [C] peg foot, [Dm] travelin' [Am] on,
[Dm] Follow the [Am] drinking [Dm] gourd.

Chorus - [G] Follow the [Dm] drinking gourd,
[G] Follow the [Dm] drinking gourd,
For the [F] old man is a [C] waitin' for to [Dm] carry you to [Am] freedom,
[Dm] Follow the [Am] drinking [Dm] gourd.

[Dm] When the sun comes up and the first quail calls,
[G] Follow the [Dm] drinking gourd.
The [F] old man is [C] a waitin' for to [Dm] carry you to [Am] freedom,
[Dm] Follow the [Am] drinking [Dm] gourd.

Chorus - [G] Follow the [Dm] drinking gourd,
[G] Follow the [Dm] drinking gourd,
For the [F] old man is a [C] waitin' for to [Dm] carry you to [Am] freedom,
[Dm] Follow the [Am] drinking [Dm] gourd.

[Dm] Now the river ends between two hills,
[G] Follow the [Dm] drinking gourd,
[F] There's another [C] river on the [Dm] other [Am] side,
[Dm] Follow the [Am] drinking [Dm] gourd.

Chorus - [G] Follow the [Dm] drinking gourd,
[G] Follow the [Dm] drinking gourd,
For the [F] old man is a [C] waitin' for to [Dm] carry you to [Am] freedom,
[Dm] Follow the [Am] drinking [Dm] gourd.

Audio - The Weavers - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FwUsFWIVoYE>

From Wikipedia - An American folk song first published in 1928. The *Drinking Gourd* is another name for the Big Dipper. Folklore has it that fugitive slaves in the United States used it as a point of reference so they would not get lost. A more recent source challenges the authenticity of the claim that the song was used to help slaves escape to the North and to freedom.

From Wikipedia - According to legend, the song was used by a conductor of the Underground Railroad, called Peg Leg Joe ["the old man"], to guide some fugitive slaves.