Wade in the Water Trad. African American Trad. African American DmС В Α7 $\mathsf{D}\,\mathsf{m}$ В A7 Wade __ in the wa - ter, __ Wade in the wa-ter, chil-dren, Fine В D m С A7 DmΑ DmGod's gon-na trou-ble the wa - ter. in the wa - ter, Dm 1. See white, that all dressed host. in 2. See band dressed that all in red, _ 3. See those chil-dren all dressed black, in cold, ___ 4. Riv er Jor - dan deep and D m Α God's The gon - na trou - ble the wa ter, __ God's gon - na trou - ble the wa ter, __ It God's gon - na trou - ble the wa ter, _ They God's gon - na trou - ble the It wa ter, ____ lead looks like an Is er ____ rael ite, like the Mo looks band that ___ ses led, _ come a long__ and they won't back, way ___ turn bod - y soul, chills my ____ but ___ not my D.C. al Fine DmΑ

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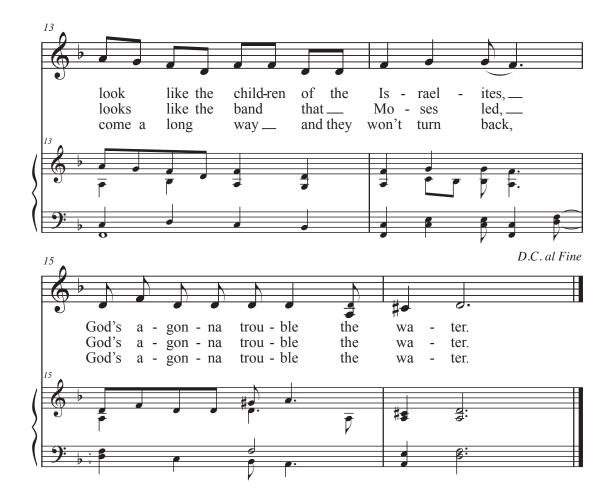
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Wade in the Water





Additional verses (incl. "floating verses" used in other spirituals):

See those children dressed in red... Must be the children that Moses led.

Jordan's water is chilly and cold... Chills the body but not the soul.

River Jordan is deep and wide... Meet my people on the other side.

If you get there before I do...
Tell my friends that I'm coming too.

According to Arthur C. Jone, professor at Univ. of Denver, this spiritual was used by Harriet Tubman to give instructions on escaping from slavery. When a person wades in water, they leave no scent trail to be followed by dogs used by slave-catchers (*Wade in the Water: The Wisdom of the Spirituals*, Orbis, 1993, 51-52).