19th century abolitionist, activist, politician, and author
Erika Davis, “Praying With Our Legs in 2017” Repair the World, 9 January 2017

1. Which of the two opening quotes, from Douglass and Heschel, speaks more to you? Why? How does the context inform how you relate to them?

2. What does Davis mean when she writes “we sift out the grittiness of King’s fight for Black Freedom”? Does this resonate for you?

3. If you grew up in the Jewish community, what is the narrative you have heard around Jewish communal involvement in the Civil Rights movement? How can that narrative explicitly or implicitly give permission for Jewish institutions to stand on the sidelines when it comes to engaging in racial justice today?

4. How does Davis’ framing of the quotes motivate you volunteer or otherwise take action?

Discussion Questions

1. Which of the two opening quotes, from Douglass and Heschel, speaks more to you? Why? How does the context inform how you relate to them?

2. What does Davis mean when she writes “we sift out the grittiness of King’s fight for Black Freedom”? Does this resonate for you?

3. If you grew up in the Jewish community, what is the narrative you have heard around Jewish communal involvement in the Civil Rights movement? How can that narrative explicitly or implicitly give permission for Jewish institutions to stand on the sidelines when it comes to engaging in racial justice today?

4. How does Davis’ framing of the quotes motivate you volunteer or otherwise take action?

---

1 I Douglass, Frederick. Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave. Boston: Anti-Slavery Office, 1845.
2 I As recounted by his daughter, Dr. Susannah Heschel. “Following in my father’s footsteps: Selma 40 years later”
3 I Erika Davis, “Praying With Our Legs in 2017” Repair the World, 9 January 2017