

# An anti-racist passover resource

Contributed by [Not Free to Desist](#)

Source:

## FOUR CHILDREN, REGARDLESS OF AGE

The Haggadah tells of four children: the Chacham, the wise one; the Rasha, the wicked one; the Tam, the straightforward one; and finally, the one who doesn't know what to ask.

### **The Wise One/ The Chacham says: How do I become an anti-racist?**

To that one we say: Do the best you can until you know better. Then when you know better, do better.<sup>1</sup> Educate yourself about your own role in the mechanics of racism and how you can make choices to disrupt the structures and systems of injustice rather than perpetuating them.

### **The Wicked One/ The Rasha says: I'm not a racist, so racial justice is not about me.**

To that one we say: You are complicit in a white America that slammed the door shut on the opportunity for the fundamental transformation of the civil rights movement.<sup>2</sup> You may not be guilty but you are responsible.<sup>3</sup>

### **The Straightforward One / The Tam says: How do I even begin to confront racism?**

To that one we say: Repentance means a new insight, a new spirit. It also means a course of action.<sup>3</sup> Choose a place to begin, and that will be good enough for a start.

**To the One Who Does Not Know What to Ask we say:** We, too, are either ministers of the sacred or slaves of evil.<sup>4</sup> Your liberation is bound up with mine; let us work together.<sup>5</sup>

## Citations

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.oprah.com/oprahs-lifeclass/the-powerful-lesson-maya-angelou-taught-oprah-video>

<sup>2</sup> <https://time.com/5859214/james-baldwin-racism/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://voicesofdemocracy.umd.edu/heschel-religion-and-race-speech-text/>

<sup>4</sup> [https://www.bc.edu/content/dam/files/centers/boisi/pdf/f10/Heschel\\_Insecurity\\_of\\_Freedom\\_excerpt.pdf](https://www.bc.edu/content/dam/files/centers/boisi/pdf/f10/Heschel_Insecurity_of_Freedom_excerpt.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> <https://lillanetwork.wordpress.com/about/>