

Make Those Waters Part

To be read (or sung) just prior to the Maggid.

Dr. David Arnow writes in My People's Passover Haggadah that, according to the Talmud, at the Red Sea God chided Moses for praying excessively for divine intervention. Moses asked, "What should I be doing?" God replied: "Lift up your rod and hold out your arm over the sea and split it." In other words: get to work and do your part.

We live amid troubled seas of injustice. Whether in the struggle in the U.S. for civil rights for African Americans (the original inspiration for this song), or for others who are oppressed here or abroad, we know the answer to Moses' question. We must raise up our arms and make those waters part.



Make Those Waters Part

by Doug Mishkin

Let us retell the story of our struggle for the promised land
Let us remember how freedom is won, so our children will understand
Once we were slaves in Egypt, our people and our land were apart
But when Moses stood before that troubled sea, he could
Make those waters part

Once we were slaves in America, we were given white men's names
They scattered our families, they shattered our lives, while
they kept us bound in chains
Then we marched strong in Selma, we looked the racists right in the heart
And when Martin stood before that troubled sea, he could
Make those waters part (2)

Somewhere tonight lives a free man
Somewhere else freedom's just a song of the heart
We must find the river flowing between them, and we must
Make those waters part (3)

Now we are slaves in our own time, the many at the hands of the few
And we who've crossed the sea of slavery before, must remember what we must do
In the name of the falsely imprisoned, in the name of all the homeless at heart
In the name of all the history that binds us, we must
Make those waters part (3)

Troubled seas rising around us, sometimes the promised land seems hidden from view
So we retell these stories, that's how we start to
Make those waters part (3)

Doug Mishkin is a lawyer and a singer-songwriter who is a member of Temple Micah in Washington, D.C. His "Make Those Waters Part" appears on his album *Woody's Children*, on *Celebrate Passover*, and on *Sing Out For Justice*, produced by the Union for Reform Judaism.