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.

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**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.