

## It Begins

### Learning Focus

Here I am ready to **orient myself** for this journey,  
undertaking to know more each day about the workings of oppression,  
so that we might get ourselves, all of us,  
out from under under this millstone that is the Narrow Place.

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Edith Grayston: Politics doesn't interest you. Why?

Sherlock Holmes: Because it's fatally boring.

Edith: Because you have no interest in changing a world that suits you so well.

-- *Enola Holmes* (Netflix, 2020; Harry Bradbeer, director)

Screen Scene: London, 1884. Sherlock, detecting consultant, is a white man with wealth enough to accept clients only when he chooses; Edith, teacher of martial arts to women and purveyor of revolutionary books, is a Black woman dependent on income of the shop she runs.

**"...no interest in changing a world that suits you so well"**

"A ruler sustains the land through justice,  
but one who sets himself apart [*terumah*] tears it down" -Prov 29:4

This implies that if an individual acts as though they were a *terumah* (portion separated, or set aside, for the priests) by secluding themselves in the corner of their home and declaring: "What concern are the problems of the community to me? What does their judgment mean to me? Why should I listen to them? I will do well (without them)," helps to destroy the world. -- *Midrash Tanchuma Mishpatim 2*

**"What concern are the problems of the community to me?"**

**This declaration helps to destroy the world.**

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**Name one change** that you believe necessary but many around you see no urgency to address. What factors fuel your sense of urgency? What factors seem to influence others' comfort with the current situation? Might that change with a different perspective?

**Name one change** that others around you are demanding but you do not feel drawn to address. What factors fuel their urgency? What factors influence your comfort with the current situation? Might that change with a different perspective?

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## Ritual Focus

### Here I am, ready and prepared

[use traditional *kavanah* and/or continue here]

Here I am, ready and prepared to fulfill this project of counting 49 days,  
from Narrowness to Expansion,  
seeking to examine oppression and envision liberation,  
inspired by the Torah's counting of the Omer,  
counting seven full weeks, from Liberation to Revelation,  
until I reach fifty days,  
and prepare to bring new thoughts before the Eternal and into the world.

### Bless

[See "Blessing "page for masculine or feminine God-language]

*Brukheh ateh YHVH*

*Elohéinu hei ha'olamim*

*asher kidshétnu*

*bəmitzvotéihe vatzivétnu*

*al sefirat ha'omer*

בְּרוּכָה אַתָּה יְהוָה

אֱלֹהֵינוּ חַי הָעוֹלָמִים

אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁתָנוּ

בְּמִצְוֹתֶיךָ וְצִוִּיתָנוּ

עַל סְפִירַת הָעוֹמֵר

Blessed are you, YHVH,  
our God, Life of endless worlds,  
who made us holy  
with Voix commandments and commanded us  
to count the Omer.

### Count

הַיּוֹם יוֹם אֶחָד לְעוֹמֵר

*Hayom yom echad la-omer*

Today is one day of the Omer.

visit <http://Rereading4Liberation.com>  
for more on Recounting Exodus and  
Rereading Exodus along the Anacostia