



The Path From Me to You

FR. JON PAUL ROBLES

“There's a path from me to you
I'm constantly looking for,
so I try to keep clear and still
as water does with the moon.”

— Rumi



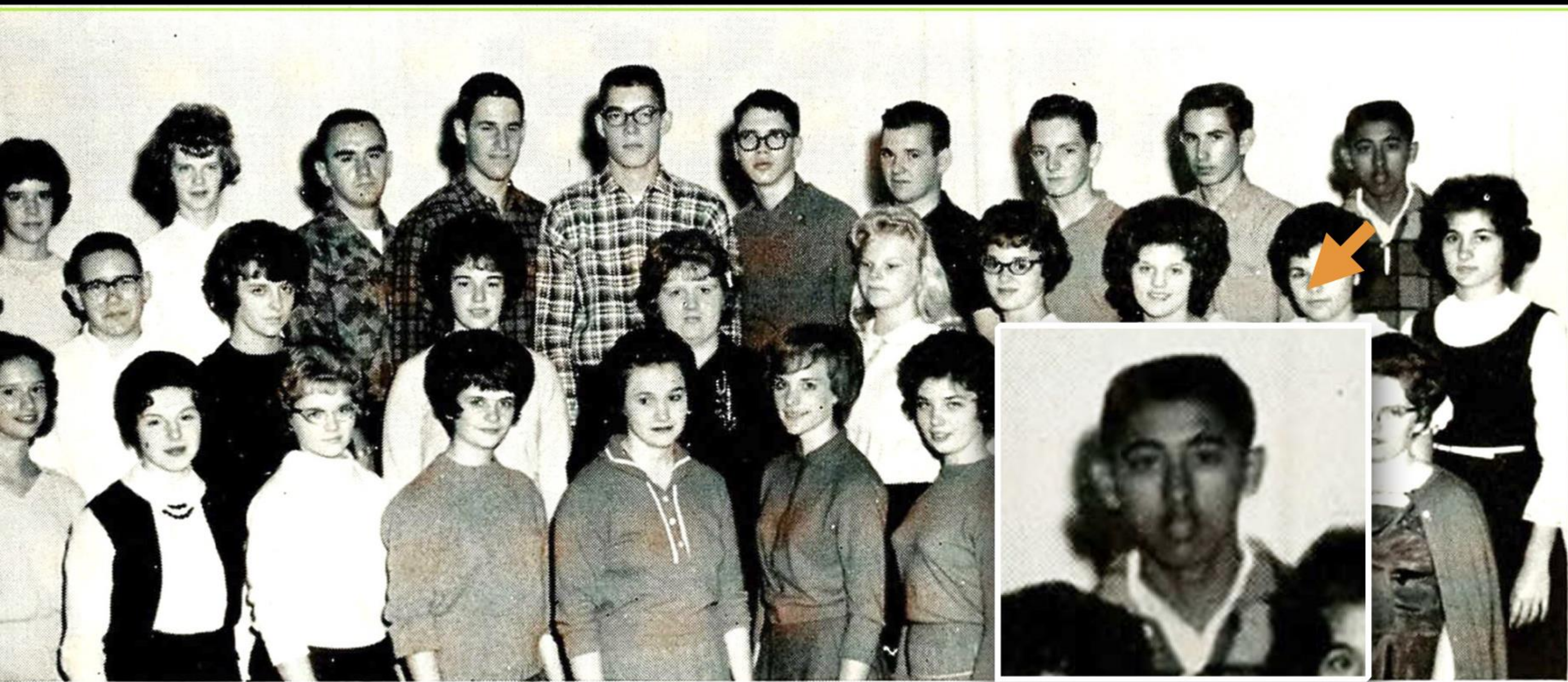






The Moses Experience





It wasn't working...

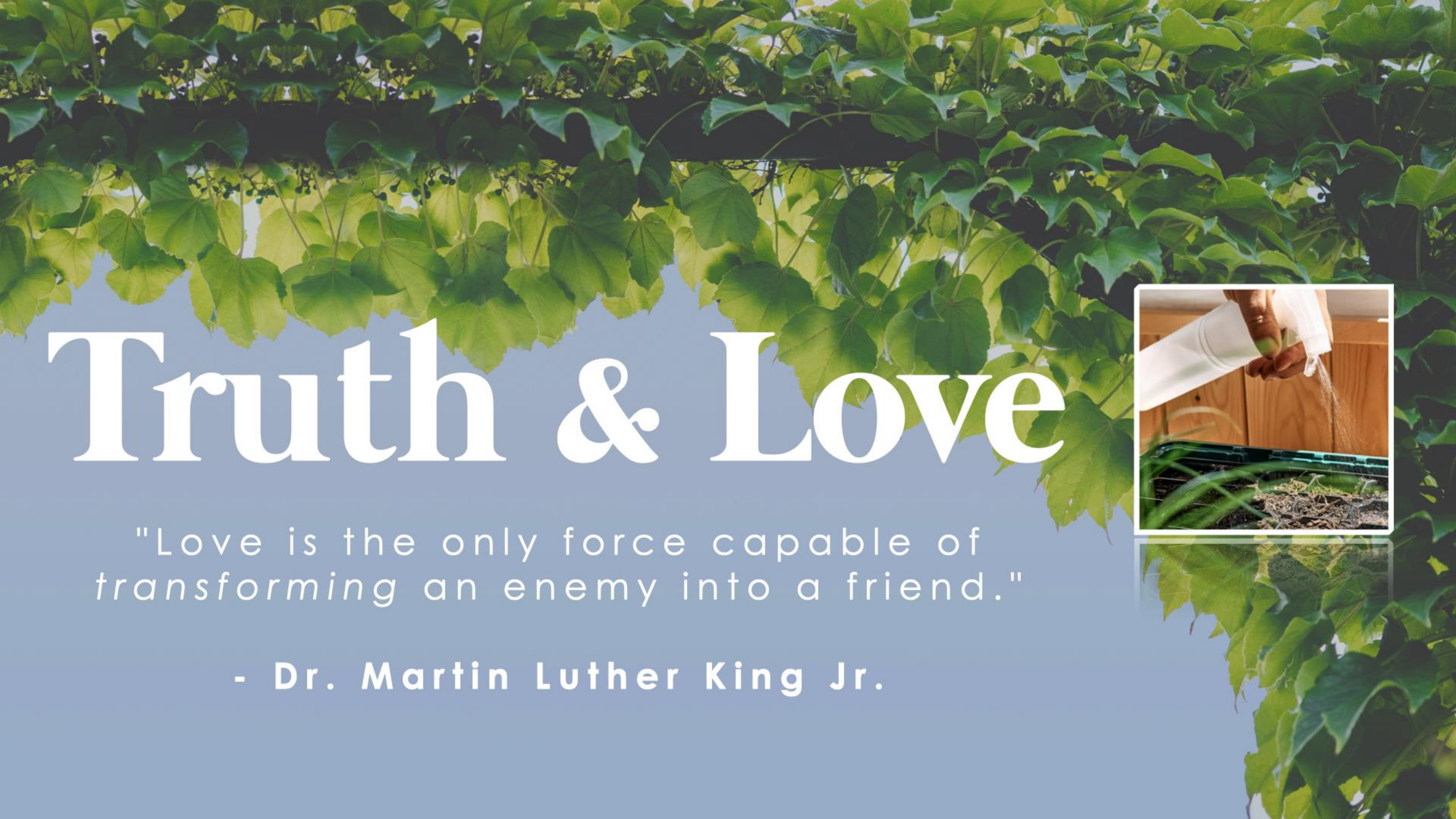
MY PERSONAL JOURNEY:

THE CULTURE WARS

FROM PROPOSITIONAL ANGER & POWER-OVER

TO CONTEMPLATIVE ACTIVISM AND

NONVIOLENT EFFECTIVENESS



Truth & Love

"Love is the only force capable of
transforming an enemy into a friend."

- Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.









Power Over vs. Nonviolence



"Nonviolence is the constant awareness of the dignity and humanity of oneself and others; it seeks truth and justice; it renounces violence both in *method and in attitude* (spirit); it is a courageous acceptance of active love and goodwill as the instrument with which to overcome evil and transform both oneself and others."

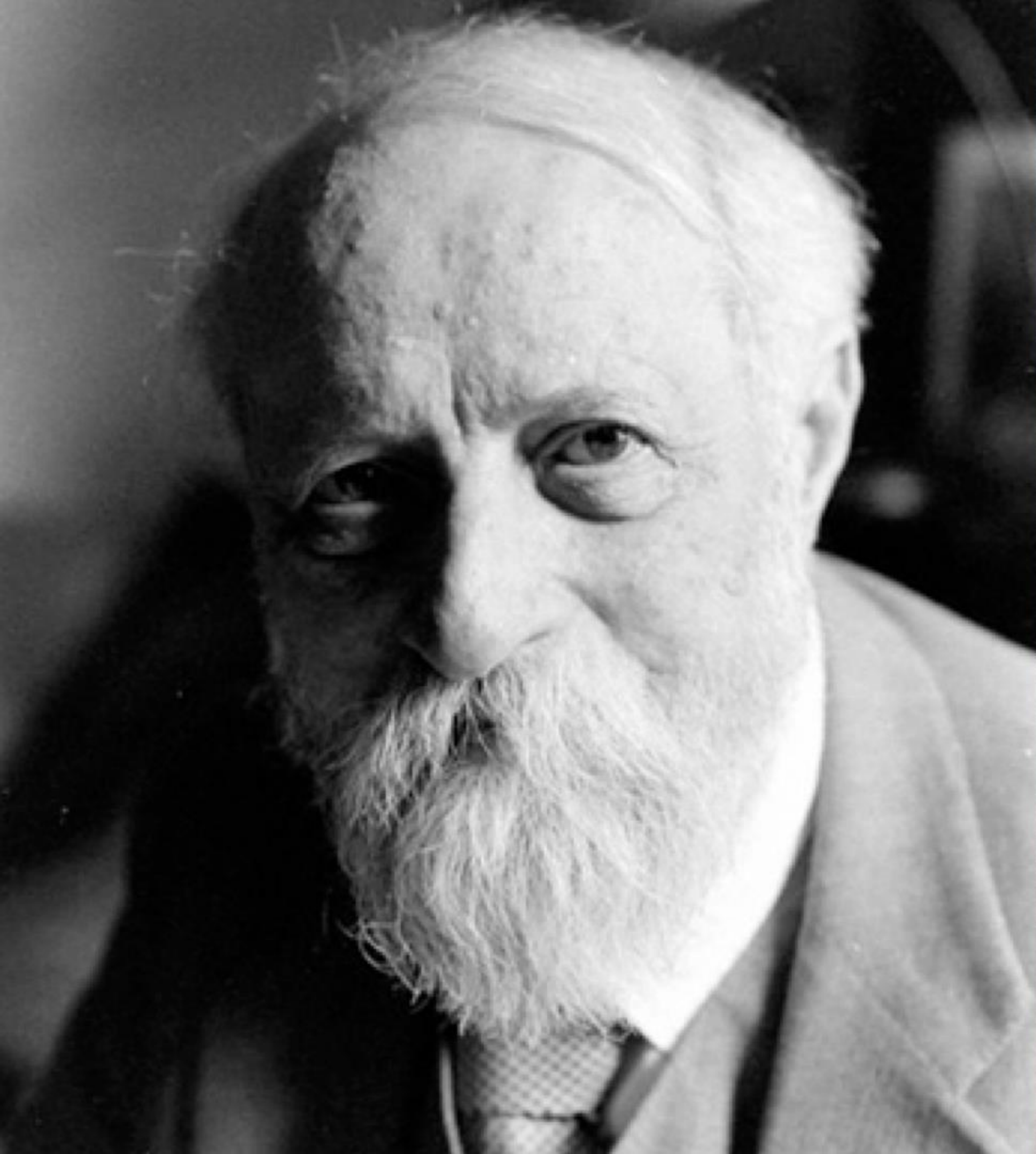
- **Joan Baez**

Power Over vs. Nonviolence



"The master's tools (*violence*) will never dismantle the master's house. They may allow us temporarily to beat him at his own game, but they will never enable us to bring about genuine change."

- **Audre Lorde**



“I – It”

MARTIN BUBER

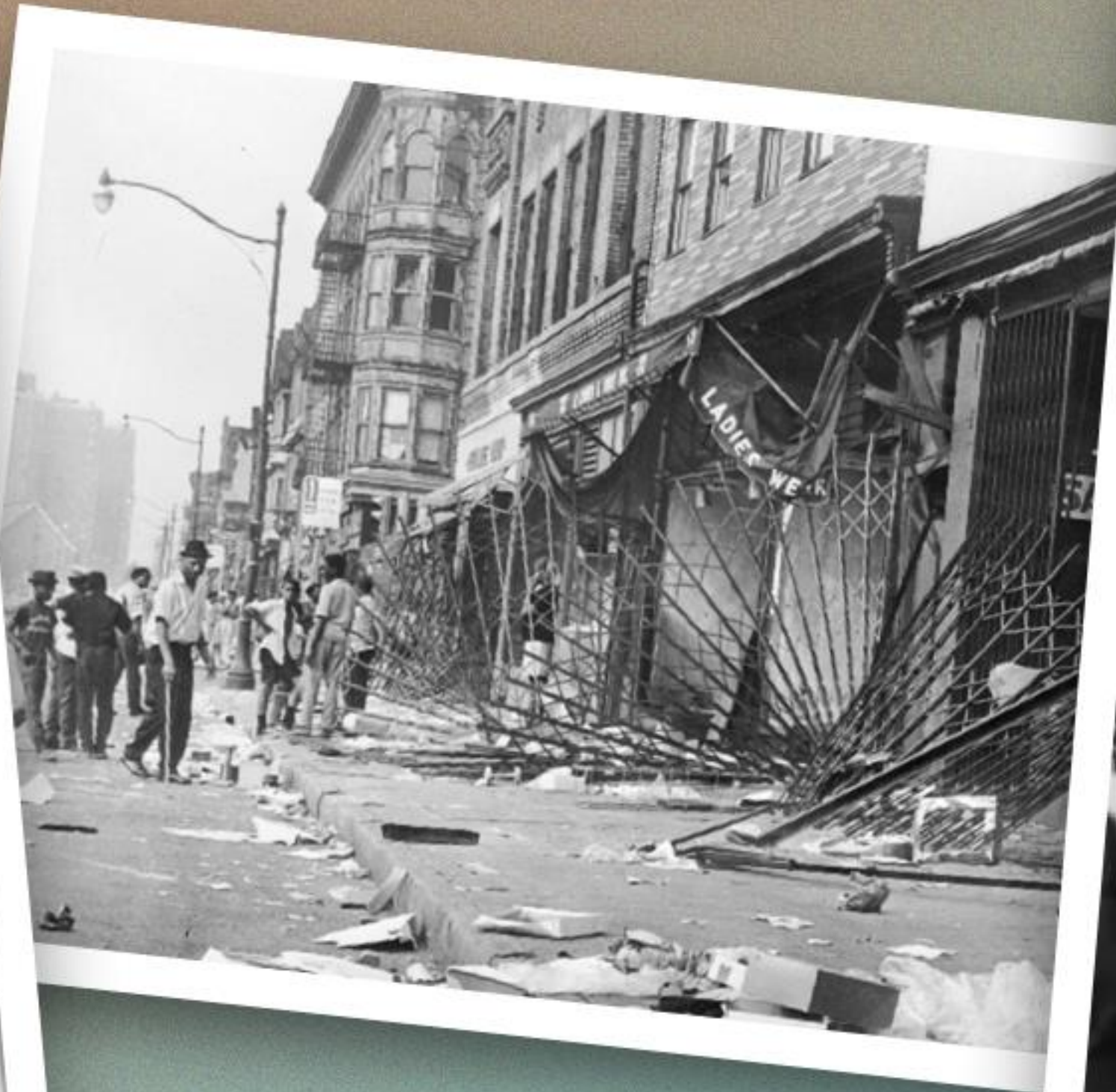
“(Segregation) to use the terminology of the Jewish philosopher Martin Buber, substitutes an “I-it” relationship for an “I-thou” relationship and ends up relegating persons to the status of things.” - Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

(Letter From a Birmingham Jail, April 16th, 1963)

“I-It” (Oppressive, dehumanized, interaction)

- Strips away the dignity of the other (dehumanizes)
- Makes them a tool, a thing to use
- Disposes of personhood by “mining” the other: Am I going to get *what I want* from this? (Inner-colonialist)
- Paralyzes true transformation by proselytizing

Why Dr. King came back to Memphis...





The way of (disruptive) love

"Nonviolence is absolute commitment to the way of love. Love is not emotional bash; it is not empty sentimentalism. It is *the active outpouring of one's whole being into the being of another.*"

THE PATH FROM ME TO YOU

Yes. Things must change!

IT'S NOT A MATTER OF IF, BUT *HOW*

Yes. Things must change.



MODERN SEGREGATION

- **RESIDENTIAL SEGREGATION:** (Richard Rothstein, The Color of Law)
- **EDUCATIONAL SEGREGATION:** (Noliwe M Rooks, Cutting School: Privatization, Segregation, and the End of Public Education)
- **OCCUPATIONAL:** (AmericanProgress.org)
- **CRIMINAL JUSTICE:** EJI: Equal Justice Initiative
- **CONGREGATIONAL (RELIGIOUS):** Pew; 80% / The 11:00 Factor

A photograph of a two-lane asphalt road that curves to the right. On the left side of the road is a metal guardrail. In the distance, a utility pole stands on the right side of the road. The entire scene is shrouded in a thick, pale fog, creating a sense of mystery and depth. The lighting is soft and diffused, typical of a foggy day.

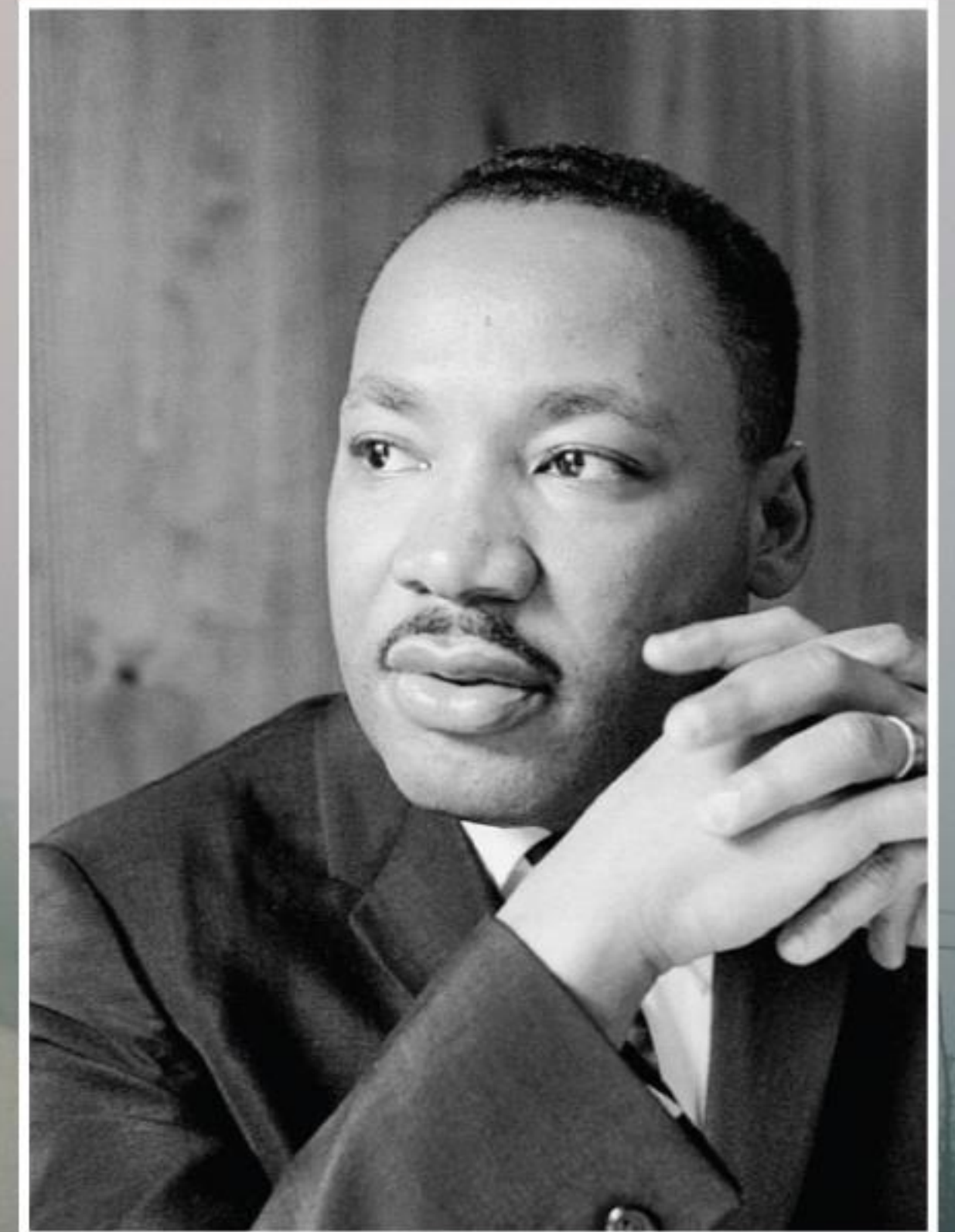
Integration

IT'S NOT A MATTER OF IF, BUT *HOW*

“I-Thou

TRUE INTEGRATION VS.  CHECKMARK D.E.I

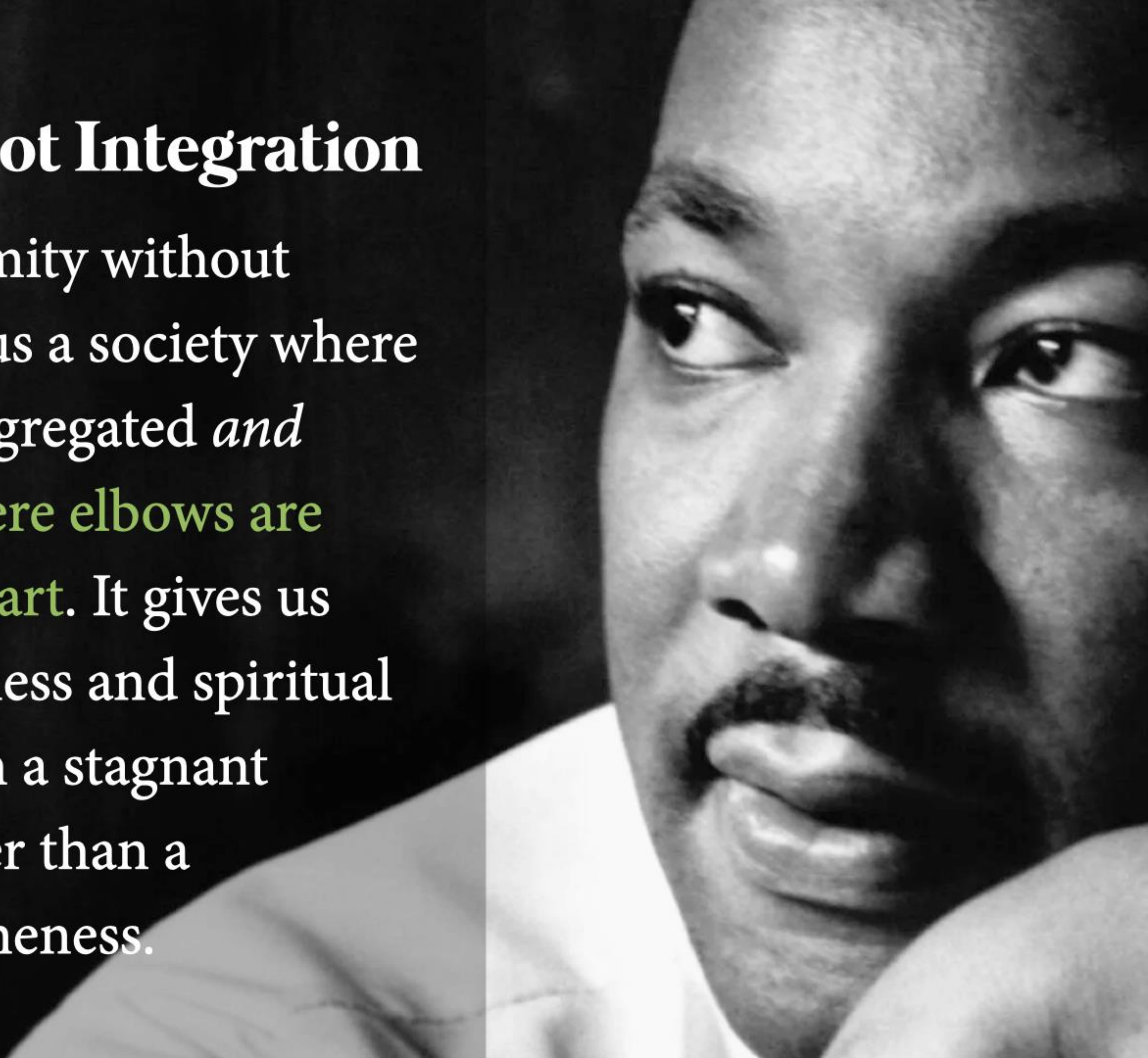
"However, when the desegregation process is one hundred percent complete, the human relations dilemma of our nation will still be monumental unless we launch now the parallel thrust of the integration process. *Although the terms desegregation and integration are often used interchangeably, there is a great deal of difference between the two.* In the context of what our national community needs, desegregation alone is empty and shallow. *We must always be aware of the fact that **our ultimate goal is integration**, and that desegregation is only a first step* on the road to the good society. Perhaps this is the point at which we should define our terms."





Checkmark D.E.I. is not Integration

It leads to "physical proximity without spiritual affinity." It gives us a society where people are physically desegregated *and* spiritually segregated, **where elbows are together and hearts are apart**. It gives us special (**spacial**) togetherness and spiritual apartness. It leaves us with a stagnant equality of sameness rather than a constructive equality of oneness.





Code switching: is a strategy for people of color to successfully navigate interracial interactions and has large implications for their well-being, economic advancement, and even physical survival.





"Broadly, code-switching involves adjusting one's style of speech, appearance, behavior, and expression in ways that will optimize the comfort of others in exchange for fair treatment, quality service, and employment opportunities."

– *Harvard Business Review*



**We can not (only) think
our way out of this.**

“Love alone is credible; nothing else can be believed, and nothing
else ought to be believed.” - **Hans Urs von Balthasar**

"I-Thou

THE PATH FROM ME TO YOU

- OPEN, UNHURRIED, UN-COMODIFIED, PRESENCE AND ATTENTION
- HINENI (hee-neh-nee): Here I am
- **FRIENDSHIP:** The miracle of friendship "simultaneously includes both affection and something like complete indifference." - **Simone Weil**

"I-Thou"

THE PATH FROM ME TO YOU

- **EMPATHY:** the process of placing oneself in the frame of reference of another, perceiving the world as the other perceives it, *sharing their world* imaginatively.
- **"THE BREADTH OF LIFE":** "That outward concern for the welfare of others... Unless an individual can rise above *the narrow confines of his individualistic concerns* to the broader concerns of all humanity he hasn't even started living."



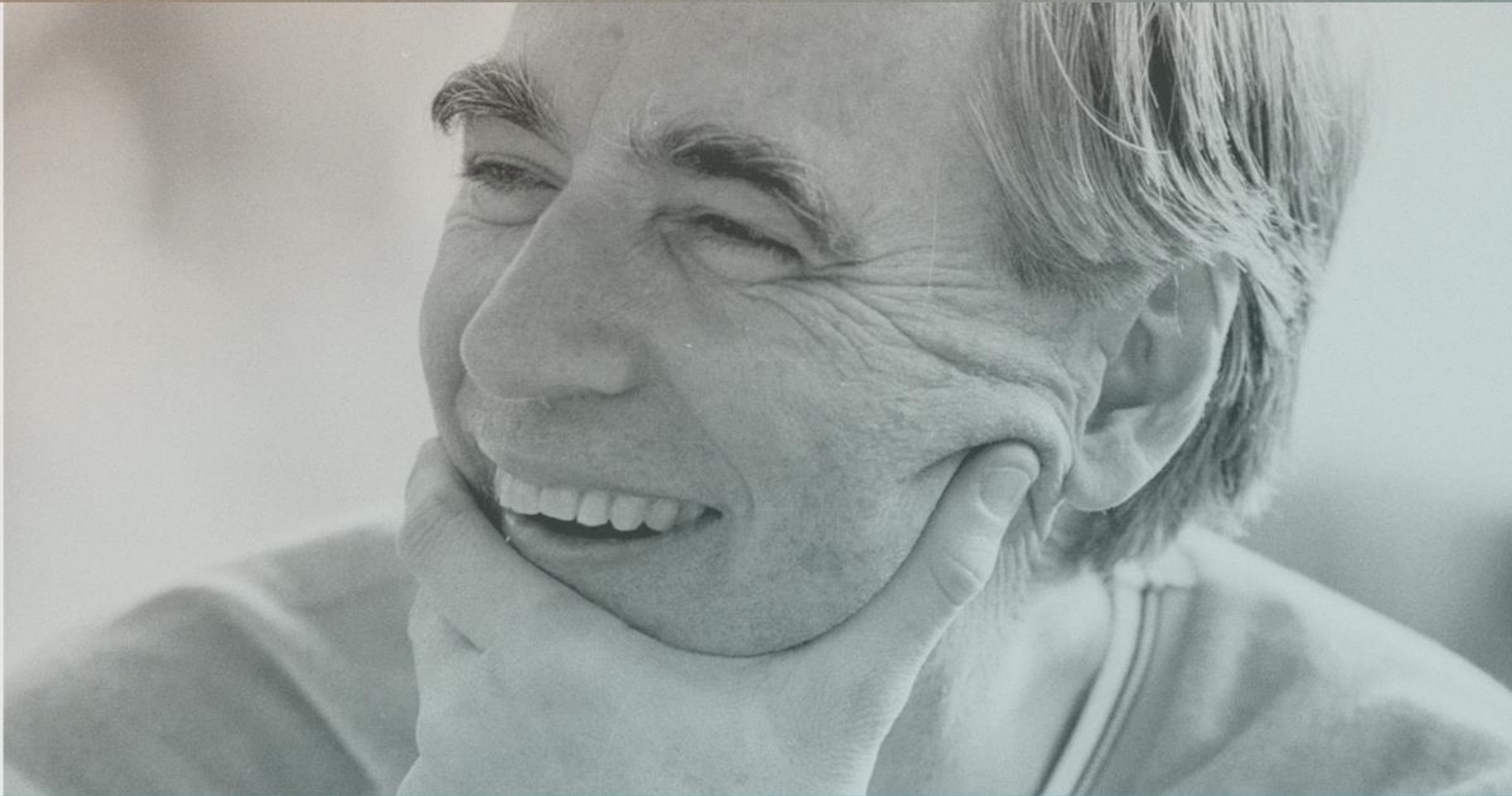
Cancel culture and call-out culture is the practice of thinking we can punish, publicly shame, and dispose of people as a way to create accountability and justice and safety.

A note on Cancel Culture

“How do you want to be held when you’re the problem? If your worst behavior is spotlit, how do you want to be held in your community? Without empathy, the human race doesn’t survive.”

- **Adrienne Maree Brown**

“Think about all the
people who loved
you into being...”



...and then share this gift with someone.



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