

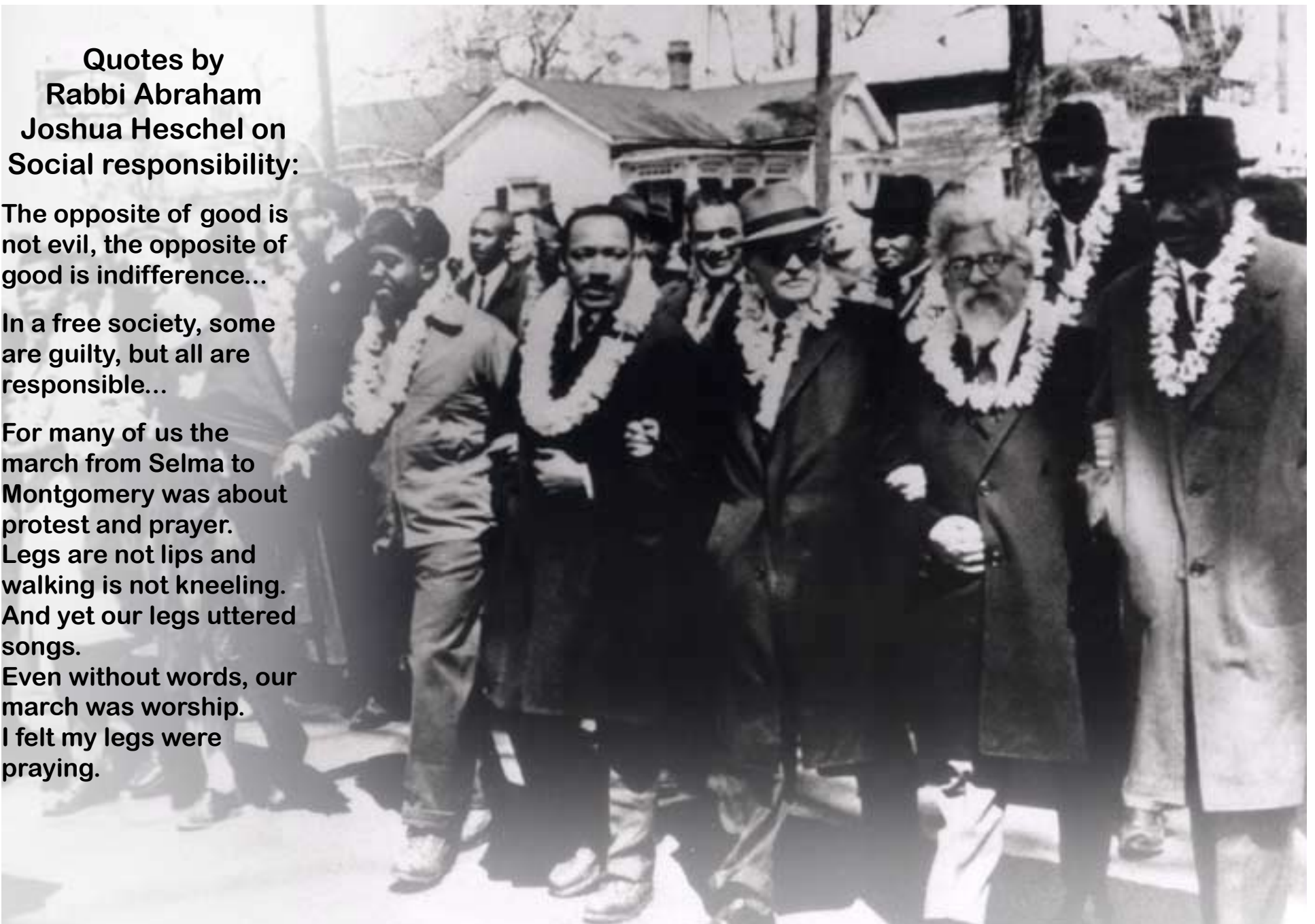
**Quotes by  
Rabbi Abraham  
Joshua Heschel on  
Social responsibility:**

The opposite of good is not evil, the opposite of good is indifference...

In a free society, some are guilty, but all are responsible...

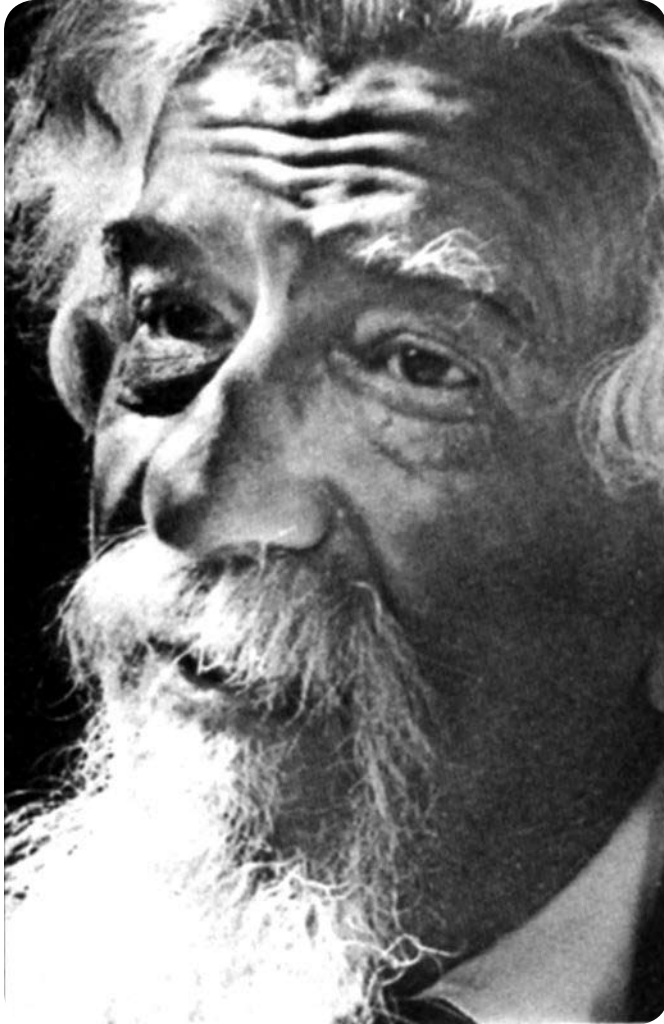
For many of us the march from Selma to Montgomery was about protest and prayer. Legs are not lips and walking is not kneeling. And yet our legs uttered songs. Even without words, our march was worship. I felt my legs were praying.

**Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, second from right, participating in Selma Civil Rights March on March 21, 1965 with Martin Luther King, Jr., fourth from right. Rabbi Heschel is also walking with Ralph Bunche, former UN Ambassador and Ralph Abernathy**



# Dr. Abraham Joshua Heschel

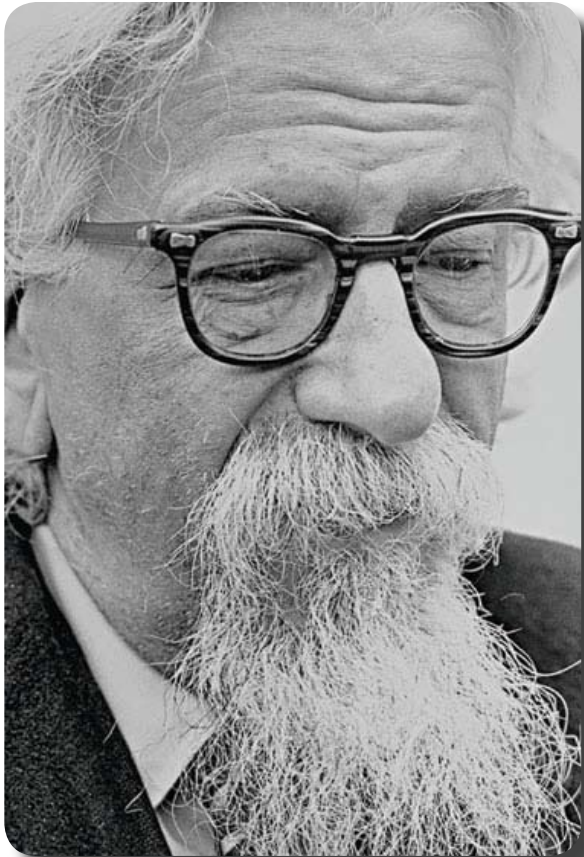
January 11, 1907, Warsaw, Poland –  
December 23, 1972



To President John F. Kennedy, The White House,  
June 16, 1963

I look forward to privilege of being present at meeting tomorrow at 4PM. Likelihood exists that Negro problem will be like the weather. Everybody talks about it but nobody does anything about it. Please demand of religious leaders personal involvement not just solemn declaration. We forfeit the right to worship God as long as we continue to humiliate Negroes. Church synagogues have failed. They must repent. Ask of religious leaders to call for national repentance and personal sacrifice. Let religious leaders donate one month's salary toward fund for Negro housing and education. **I propose that you Mr. President declare state of moral emergency.** A Marshall Plan for aid to Negroes is becoming a necessity. The hour calls for high moral grandeur and spiritual audacity.

June 15th 1963



The idea of a **chosen people** does not suggest the preference for a people based upon discrimination among a number of peoples.

***We do not say that we are a superior people.***

The “chosen people” means a people approached and chosen by God...

**It signifies not a quality inherent in the people but a relationship between the people and God...**

Judaism is God’s quest for man. The bible is a record of God’s approach to his people.



Even before Israel was told in the Ten Commandments what to do, it was told what to be: **a holy people.**

7 לֹא מֵרִבְכֶם מִכָּל־הָעַמִּים חָשַׁק  
ה' בְּכֶם וַיִּבְחַר בְּכֶם כִּי־אַתֶּם  
הַמְעַט מִכָּל־הָעַמִּים:

**To perform deeds of holiness is to absorb the holiness of deeds...**

**the good deeds are for the sake of man...**

the goal is not that a ceremony be performed:  
the goal is that man be transformed;  
to worship the Holy in order to be holy.

It was not because you had greater numbers than all the other nations that God embraced you and chose you; you are among the smallest of all the nations.... (Devarim 7:7)

**The purpose of the mitzvot is to sanctify man.**