

Harriet Tubman, the Underground Railroad, and the Quest for Freedom

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Scrivener's Quill



- "Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world."

- — Harriet Tubman



*Give Me
Liberty
or Give Me
Death*

- "I had reasoned this out in my mind; there was on of two things I had a right to, liberty or death; if I could not have one, I would have the other; for no man should take me alive."

- — Harriet Tubman



- "I freed thousands of slaves, and could have freed thousands more, if they had known they were slaves."

- — Harriet Tubman

- "Everyone knows how we white people feel, the glorified Mammy figure who dedicates her whole life to a white family. Margaret Mitchell covered that. But no one ever asked Mammy how she felt about it."

- — Kathryn Stockett (*The Help*)





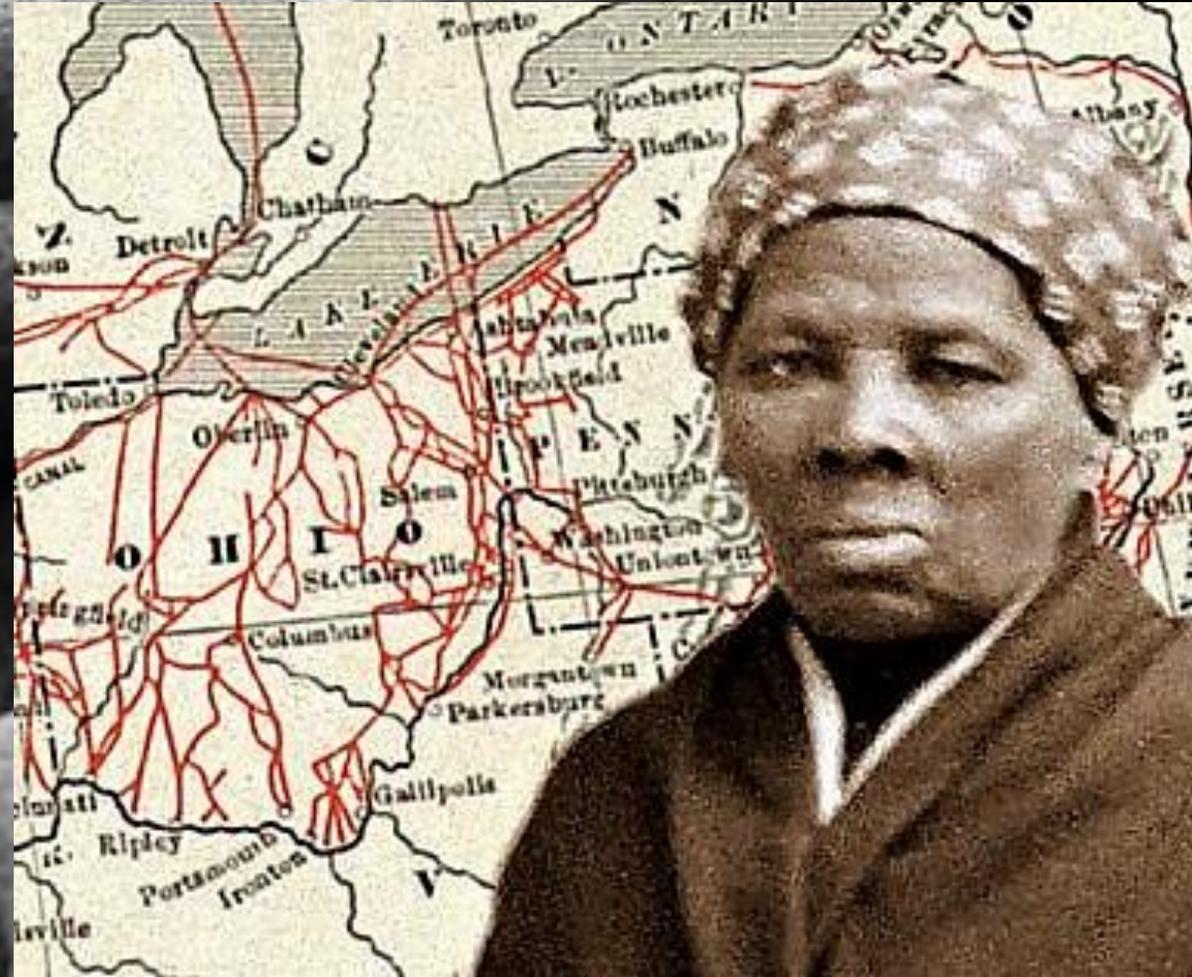
- " 'Twant me, 'twas the Lord. I always told him, 'I trust to you. I don't know where to go or what to do, but I expect you to lead me,' and He always did."

- — Harriet Tubman



- The Underground Railroad was a network of safe houses and transportation provided by abolitionists. The network was loosely organized and usually owners of safe houses did not know the entire network but just a few connecting stations. Over a period of time, Tubman was able to build her own network of connections with friends she trusted and who admired her. Secrecy was paramount. For those who decided to shelter slaves, the consequence of getting caught was going to jail for 6 months.

- <http://www.harriet-tubman.org/moses-underground-railroad/>



UNDERGROUND RAILROAD

c. 1860

ORGANIZED &
UNORGANIZED
TERRITORIES



Generalized routes of
slaves seeking freedom



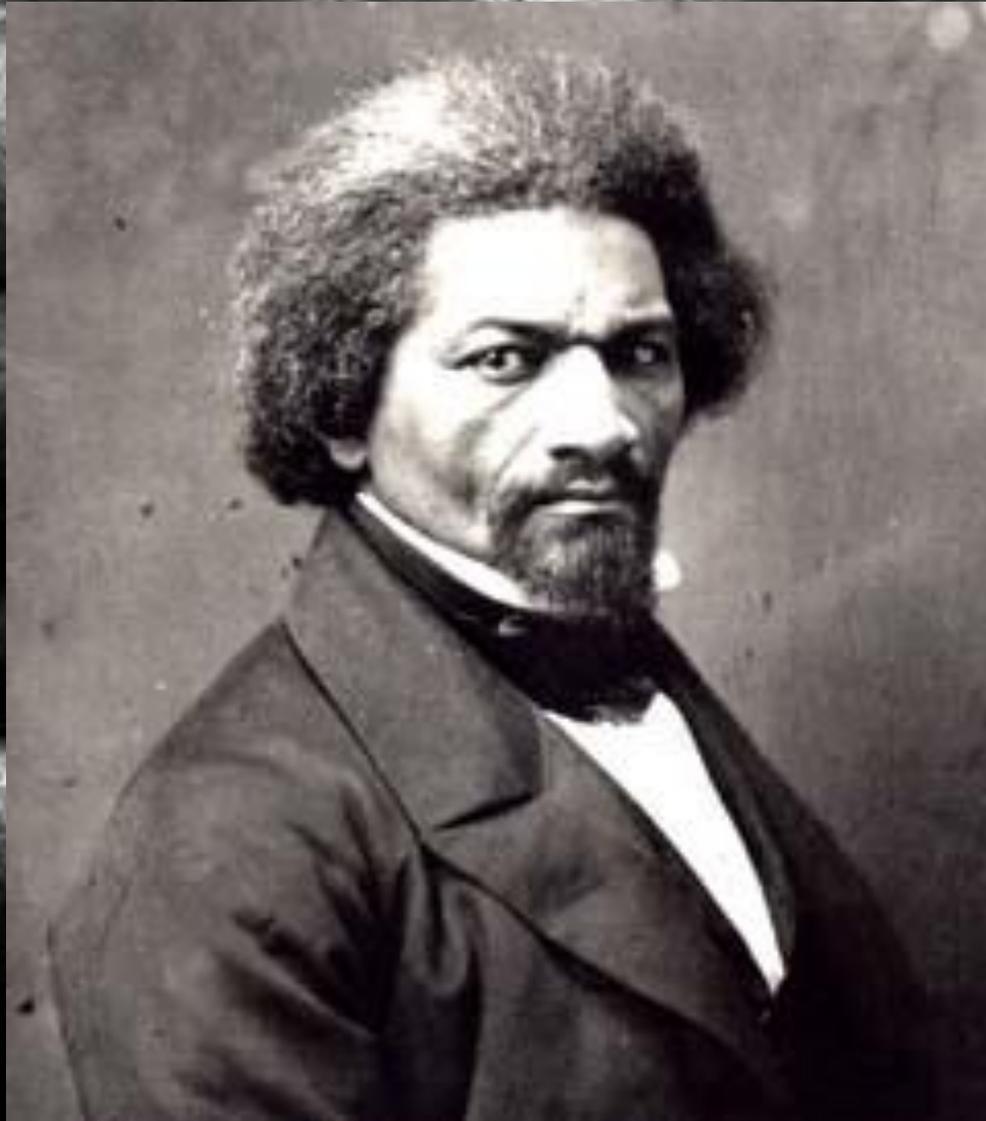
Smithsonian
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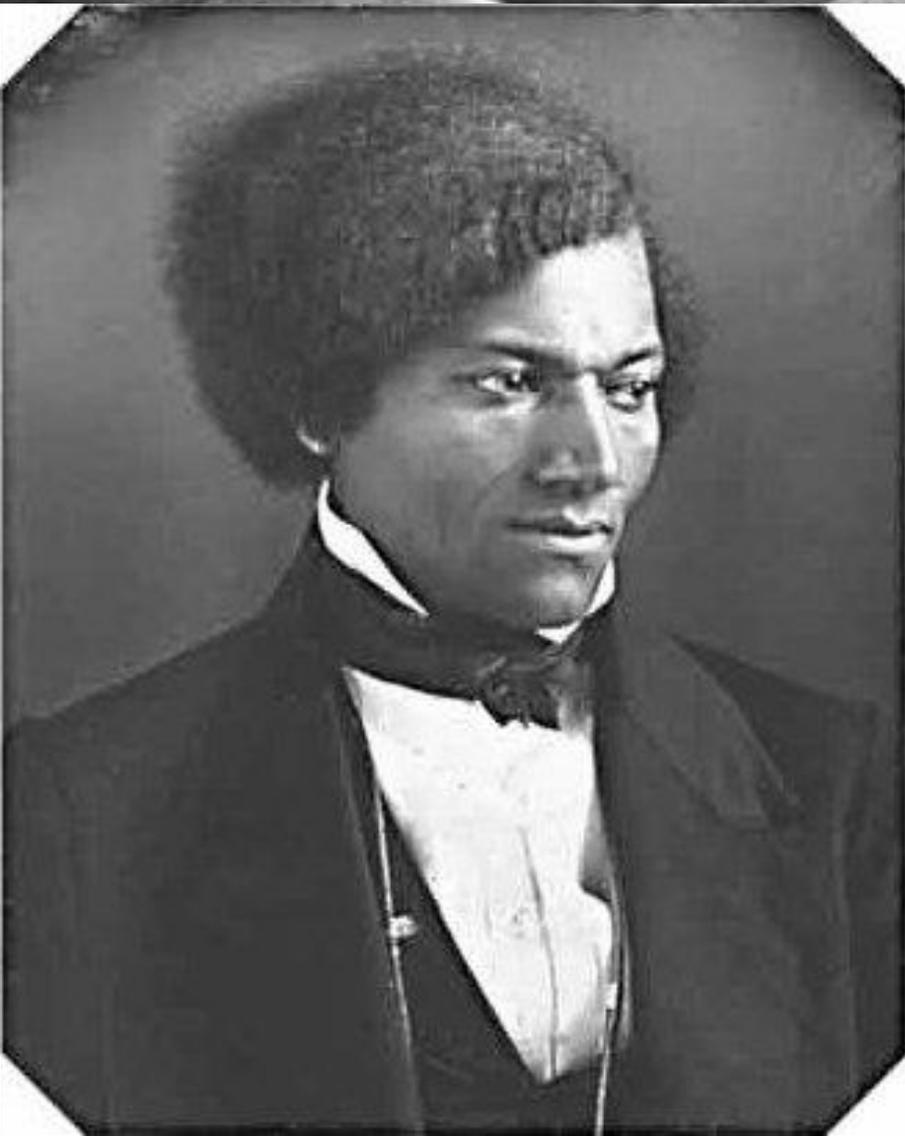


PROPERTY

VS

PERSON





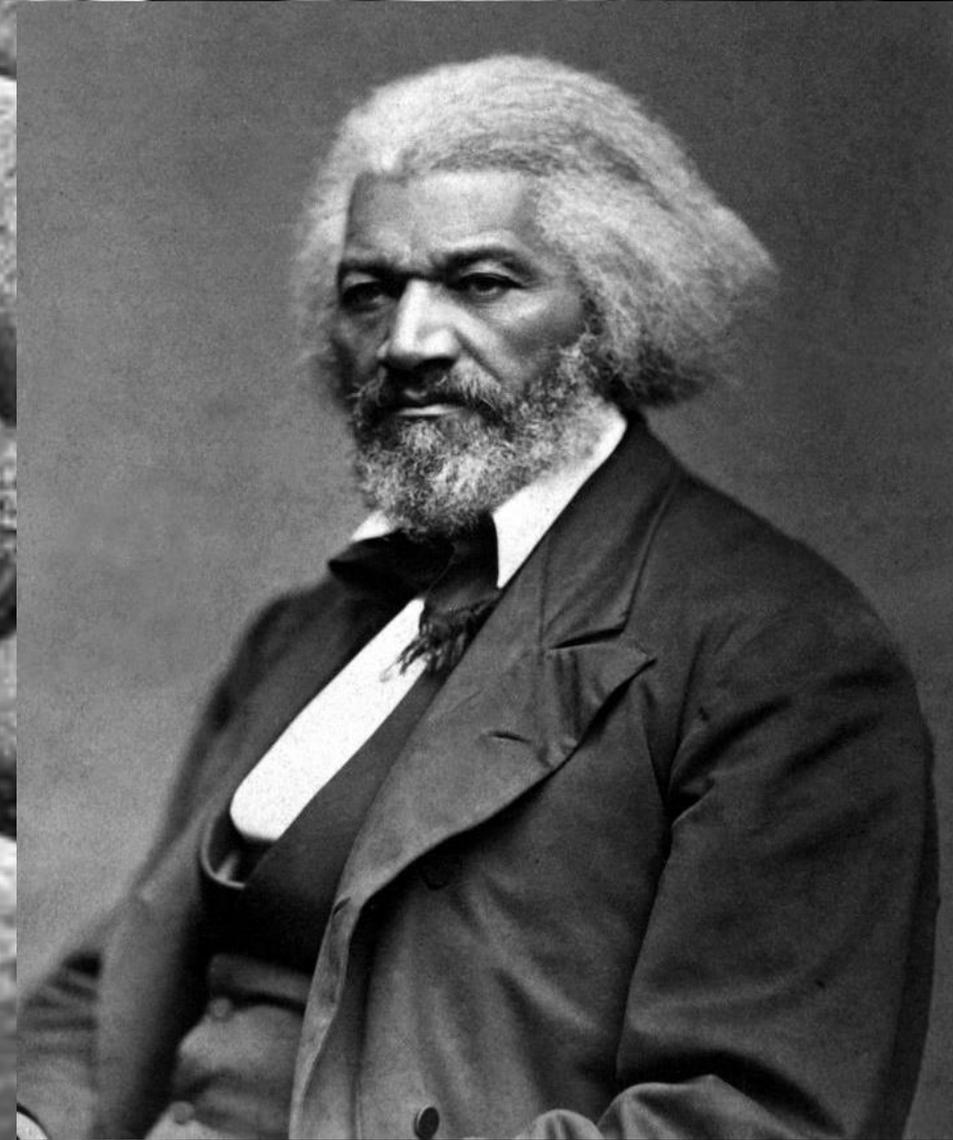
- Frederick Douglass was an African-American social reformer, abolitionist, orator, writer, and statesman. After escaping from slavery in Maryland, he became a national leader of the abolitionist movement in Massachusetts and New York, gaining note for his dazzling oratory and incisive antislavery writings. In his time, he was described by abolitionists as a living counter-example to slaveholders' arguments that slaves lacked the intellectual capacity to function as independent American citizens. Northerners at the time found it hard to believe that such a great orator had once been a slave.

- [Wikipedia](#)



- "O, why was I born a man, of whom to make a brute! The glad ship is gone; she hides in the dim distance. I am left in the hottest hell of unending slavery. O God, save me! God, deliver me! Let me be free! Is there any God! Why am I a slave? I will run away. I will not stand. Get caught, or clear, I'll try it. I had as well die with ague as the fever. I have only one life to lose. I had as well be killed running as die standing. Only think of it; 100 miles straight north, and I am free! . . . Meanwhile, I will try to bear up under the yoke. I am not the only slave in the world. Why should I be free? I can bear as much as any of them. Besides I am but a boy, and all boys are bound to some one. It may be that my misery and slavery will only increase the happiness when I get free there is a better day coming."

- — Frederick Douglass (Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass)

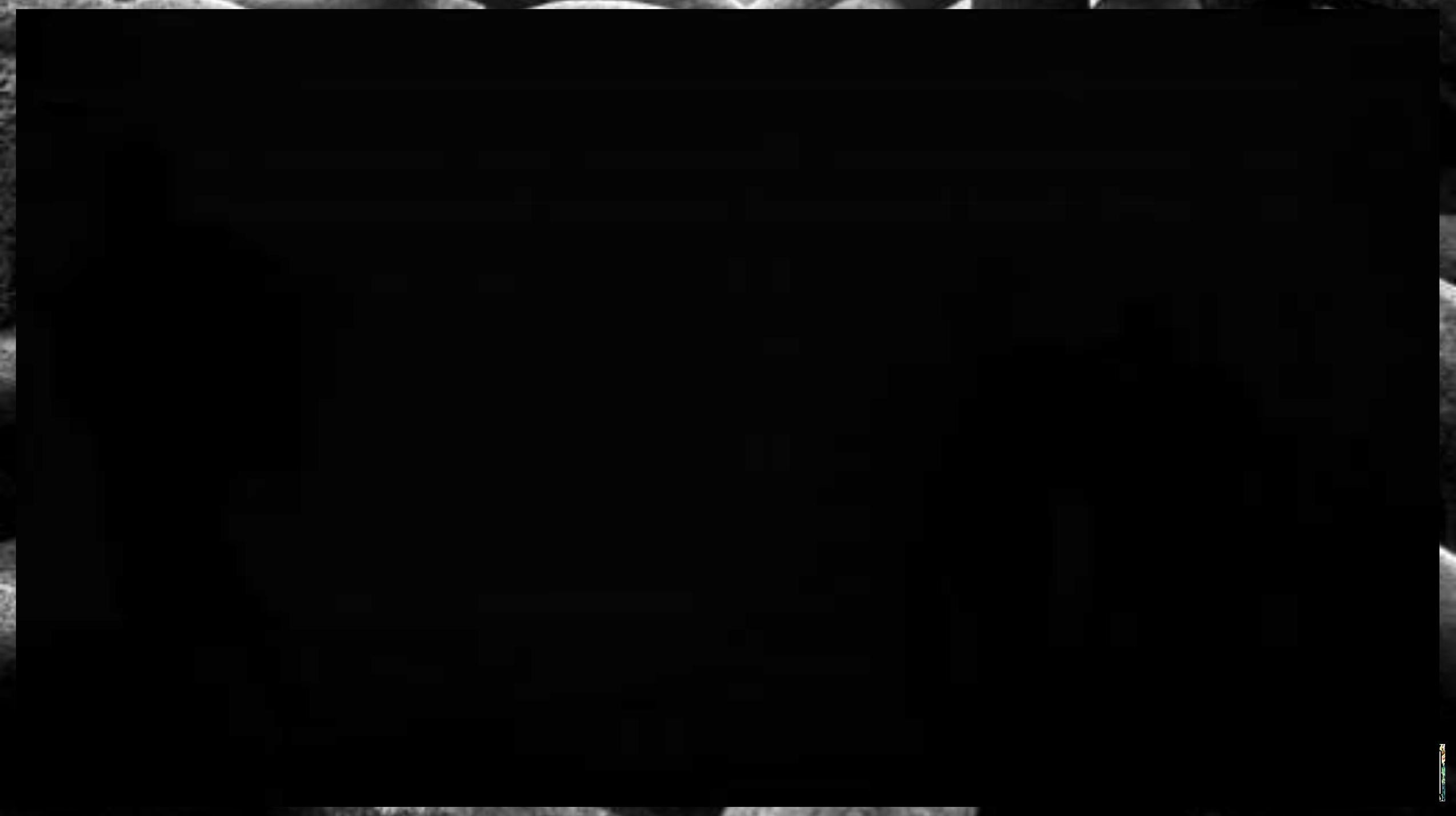




- “It is a fact that every American Negro bears a name that originally belonged to the white man whose chattel he was. I am called Baldwin because I was either sold by my African tribe or kidnapped out of it into the hands of a white Christian named Baldwin, who forced me to kneel at the foot of the cross. I am, then, both visibly and legally the descendant of slaves in a white, Protestant country, and this is what it means to be an American Negro, this is who he is—a kidnapped pagan, who was sold like an animal and treated like one, who was once defined by the American Constitution as “three-fifths” of a man, and who, according to the Dred Scott decision, had no rights that a white man was bound to respect. And today, a hundred years after his technical emancipation, he remains—with the possible exception of the American Indian—the most despised creature in his country.”

- — James Baldwin, *The Fire Next Time*





DISCERNING
HISTORY





- "Once let the black man get upon his person the brass letter, U.S., let him get an eagle on his button, and a musket on his shoulder and bullets in his pocket, there is no power on earth that can deny that he has earned the right to citizenship."

- — Fredrick Douglas



- Quakers are part of Underground Railroad mythology. . . . Rev. Samuel R. Ward, a one-time resident of Poughkeepsie, describes in his autobiography the escape of his parents from the Eastern Shore of Maryland to southern New Jersey in 1820. They left with the intention, Ward wrote, "to reach a Free State, and live among Quakers." They found refuge in Greenwich, New Jersey. There were no slave-holders there, despite New Jersey being at that time a slave state, and, quoting Ward, "when the slave-catchers came prowling about the Quakers placed all manner of peaceful obstacles in their way, while the Negroes made it a little too hot for their comfort."

- Christopher Densmore, "Quakers and the Underground Railroad: Myths and Realities



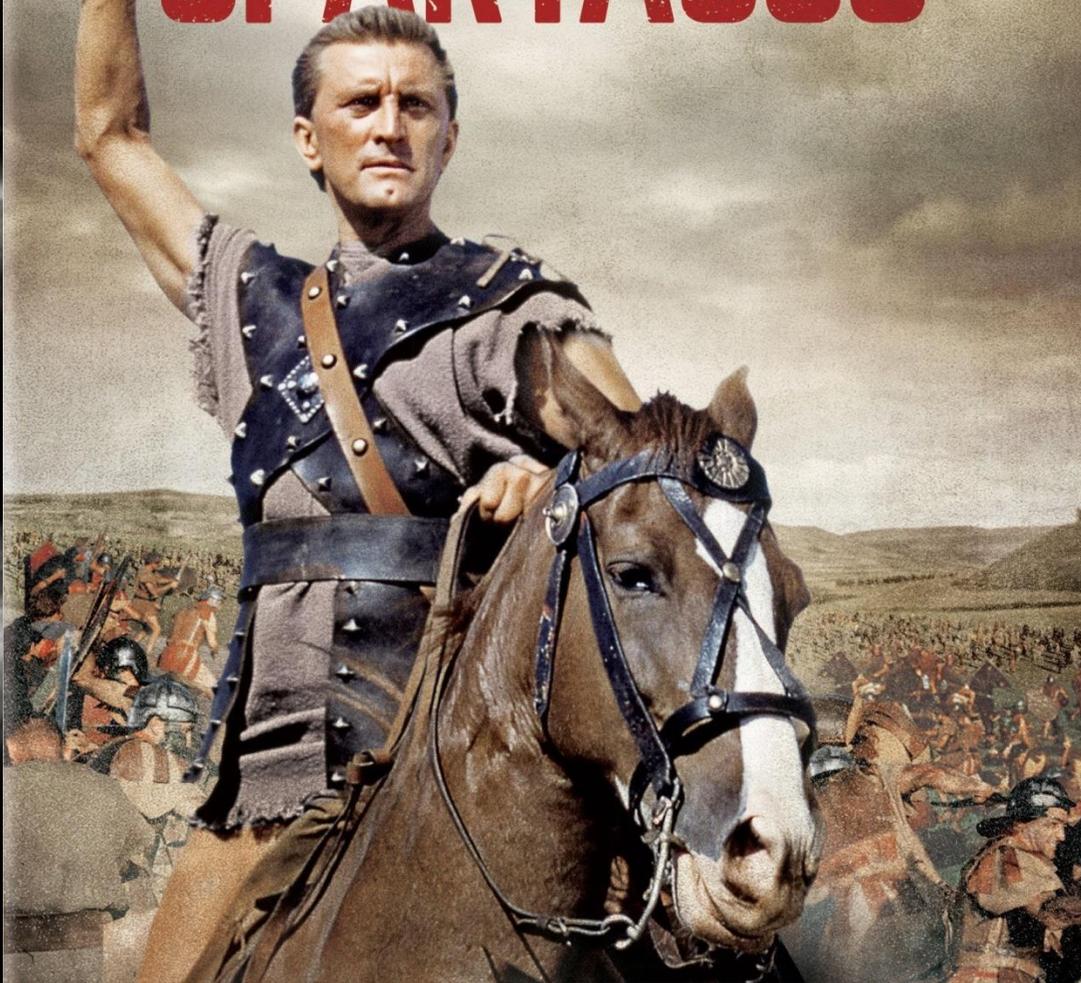
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A STANLEY KUBRICK FILM

SPARTACUS

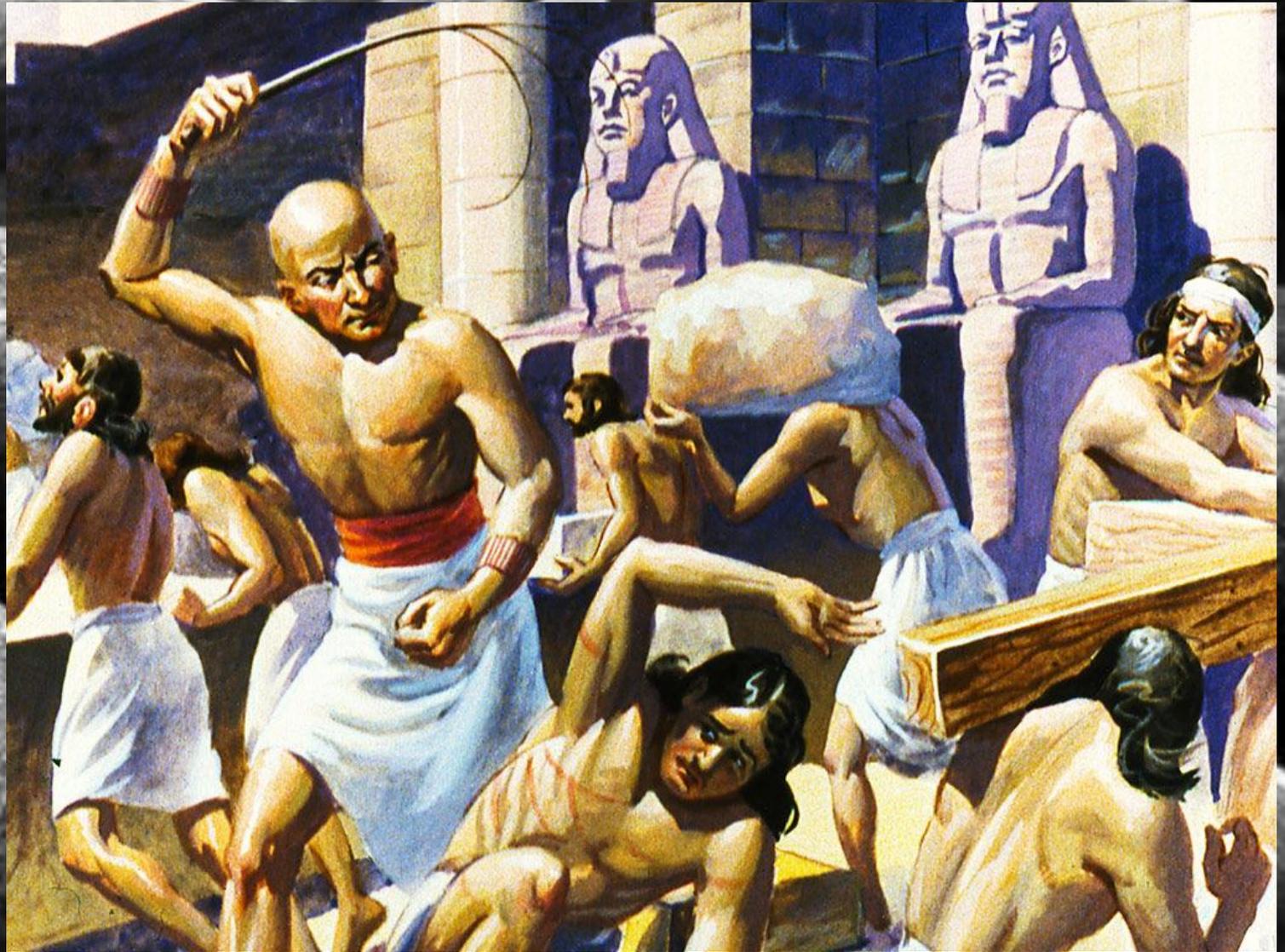


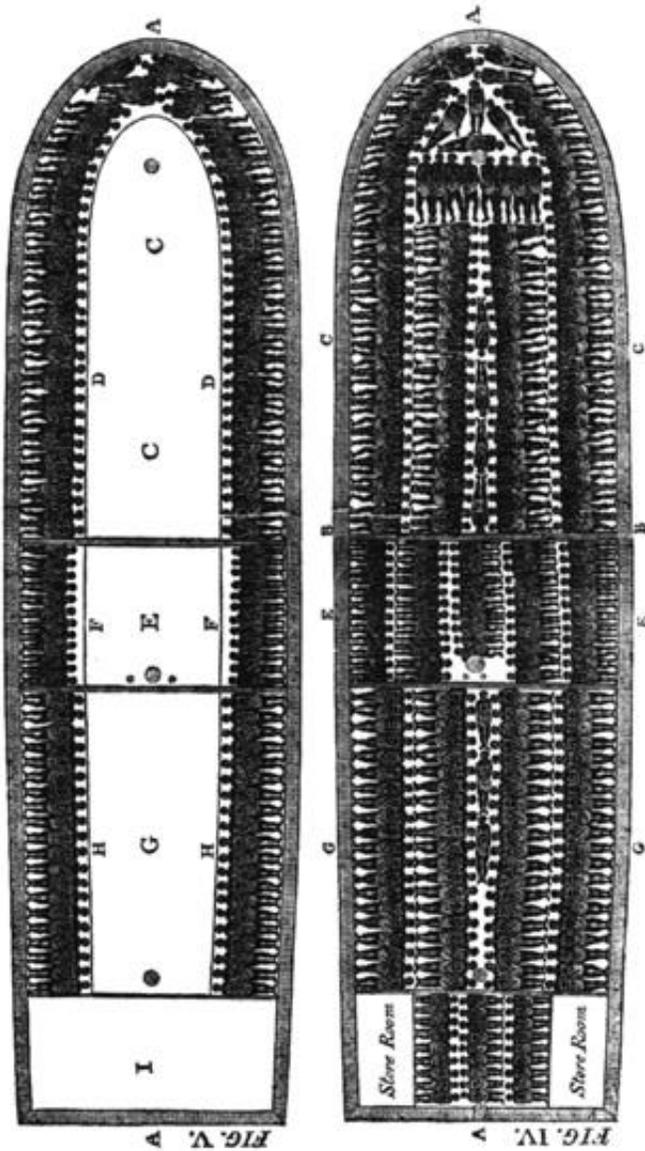
- “I'd rather be here, a free man among brothers, facing a long march and a hard fight, than to be the richest citizen of Rome, fat with food he didn't work for, and surrounded by slaves.”
- — Spartacus



- “And Moses spake so unto the children of Israel: but they hearkened not unto Moses for anguish of spirit, and for cruel bondage.”

- Exodus 6:9



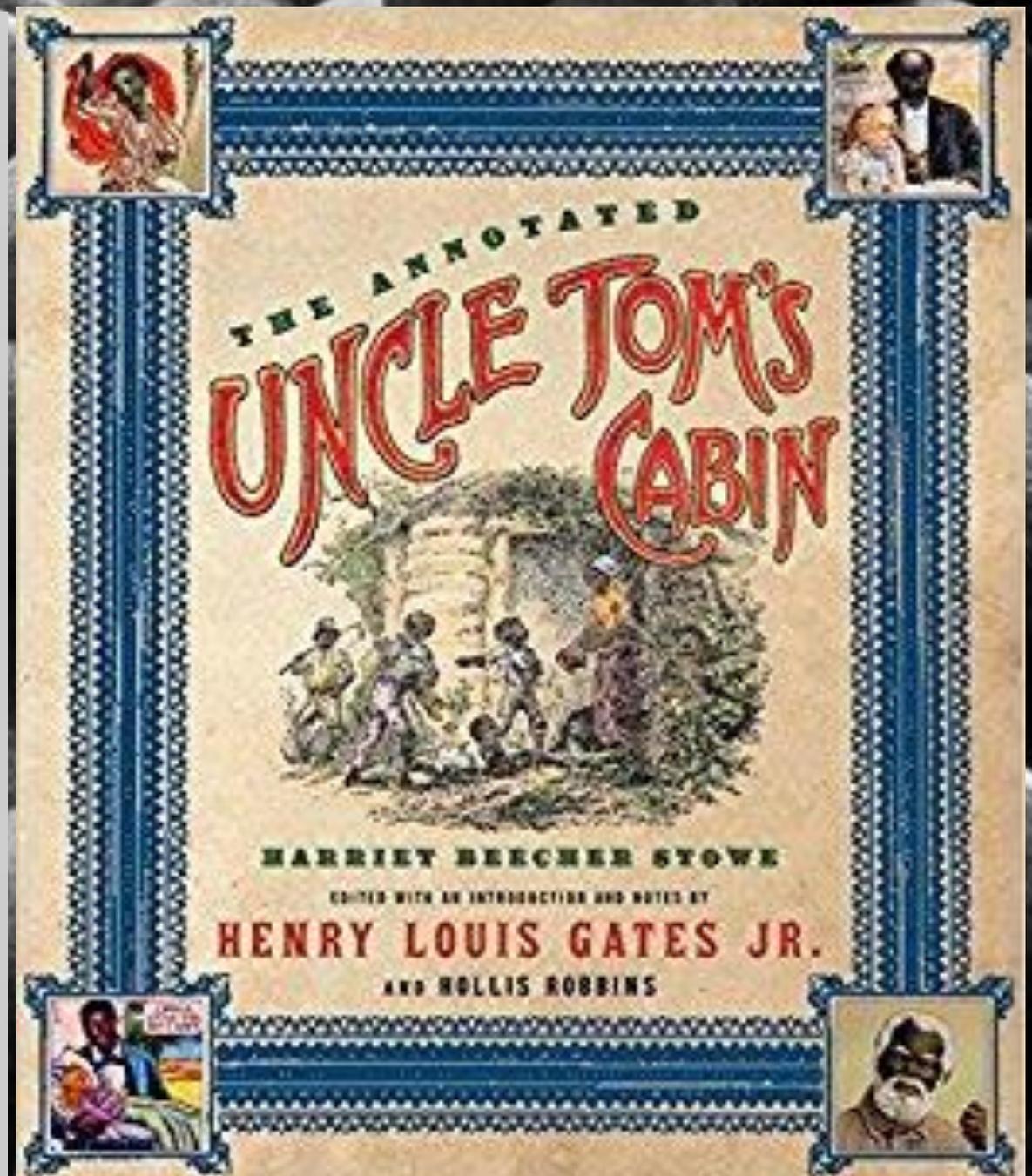


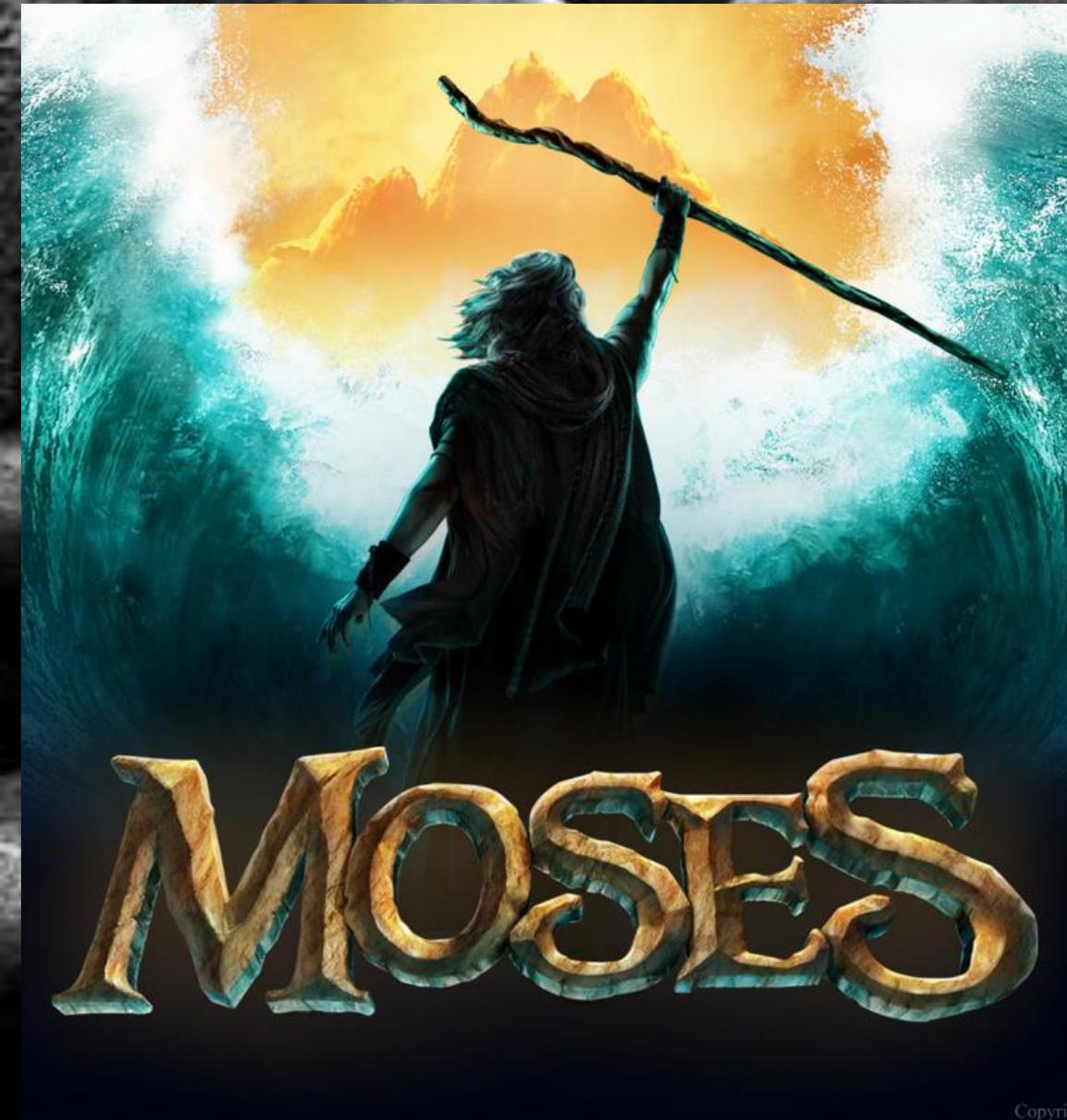
- “The most comprehensive analysis of shipping records over the course of the slave trade is the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade Database, edited by professors David Eltis and David Richardson. (While the editors are careful to say that all of their figures are estimates, I believe that they are the best estimates that we have, the proverbial “gold standard” in the field of the study of the slave trade.) Between 1525 and 1866, in the entire history of the slave trade to the New World, according to the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade Database, 12.5 million Africans were shipped to the New World. 10.7 million survived the dreaded Middle Passage, disembarking in North America, the Caribbean and South America.
- And how many of these 10.7 million Africans were shipped directly to North America? Only about 388,000.”
- – Henry Louis Gates, Jr., “How Many Slaves Landed in the U.S.?”



- “Religion! Is what you hear at church religion? Is that which can bend and turn, and descend and ascend, to fit every crooked phase of selfish, worldly society, religion? Is that religion which is less scrupulous, less generous, less just, less considerate for man, than even my own ungodly, worldly, blinded nature? No! When I look for religion, I must look for something above me, and not something beneath.”

- — Harriet Beecher Stowe, Uncle Tom's Cabin



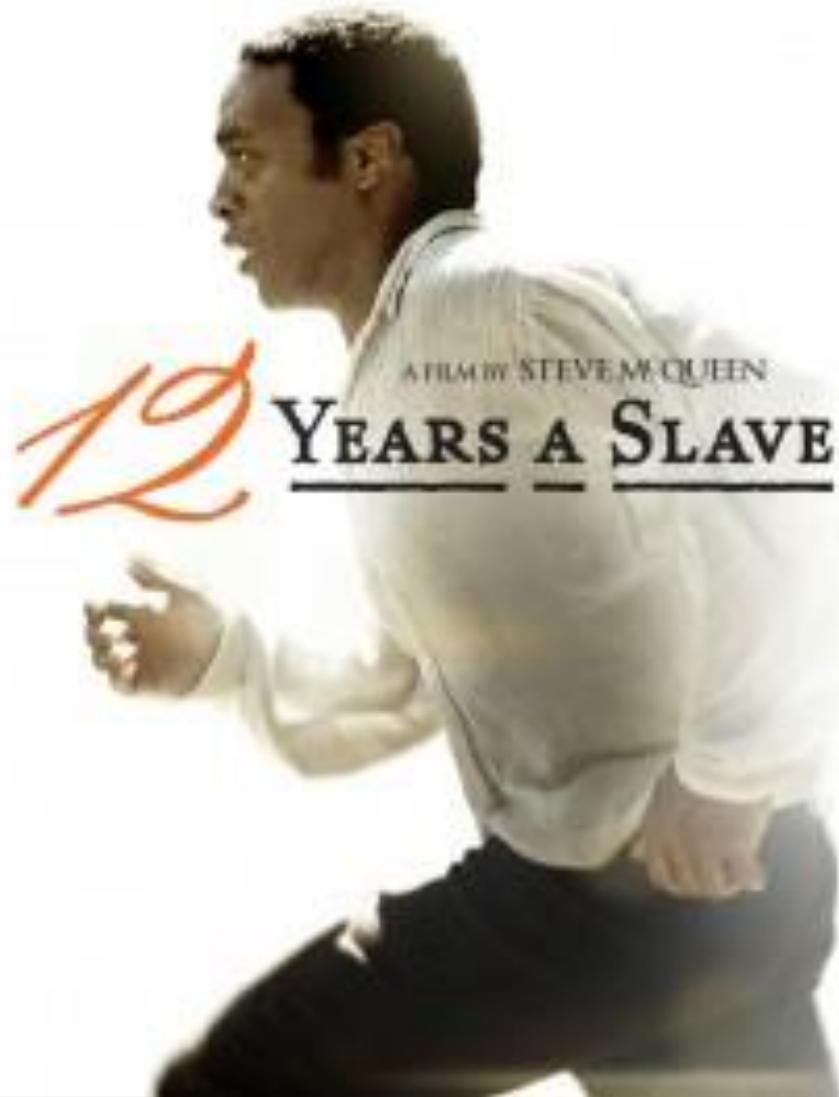


- "He got off on Lincoln and slavery and dared any man there to deny that Lincoln and the negro and Moses and the children of Israel were the same, and that the Red Sea was just the blood that had to be spilled in order that the black race might cross into the Promised Land."
- — William Faulkner



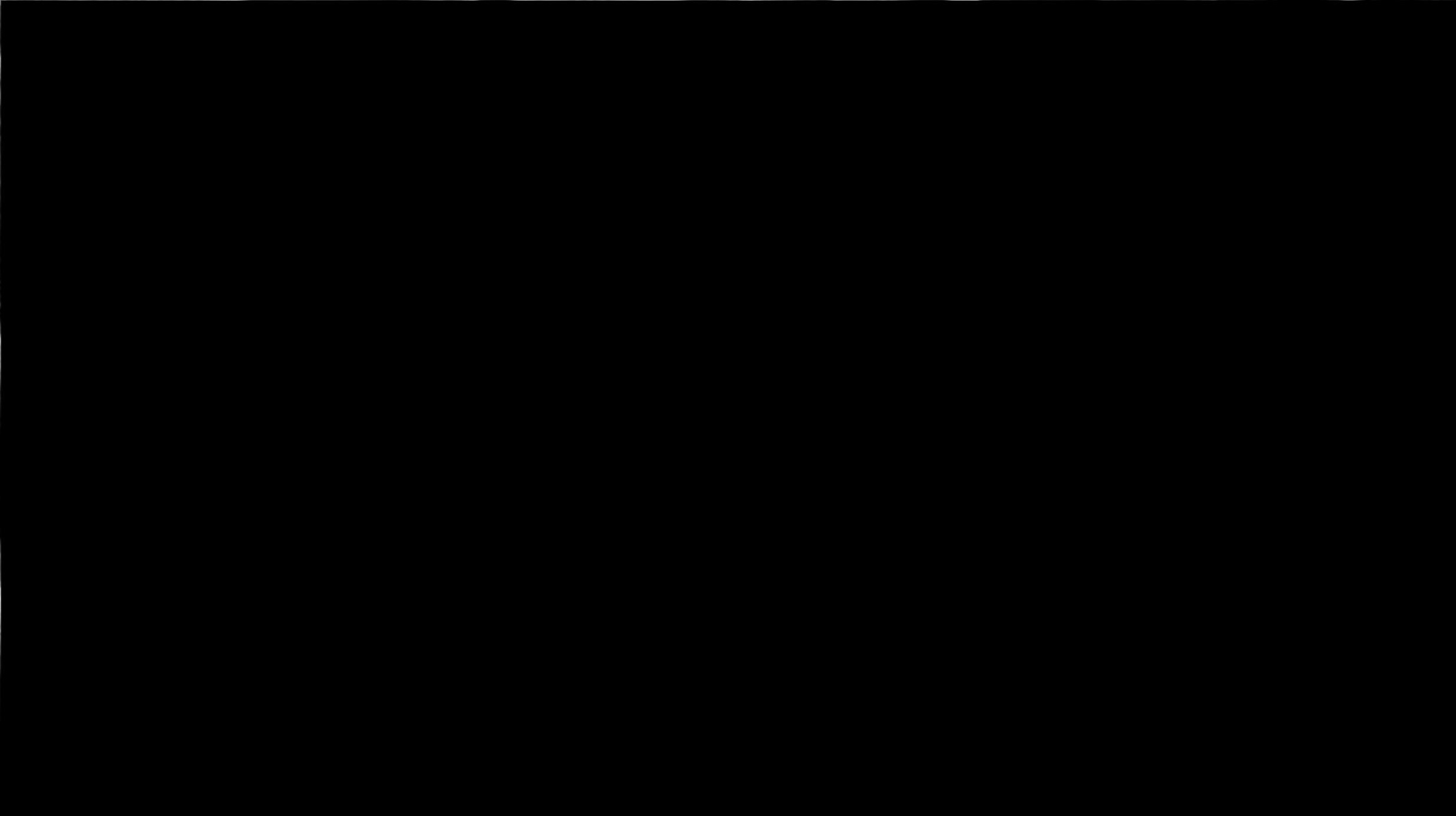


WINNER 3 BEST
ACADEMY AWARDS PICTURE



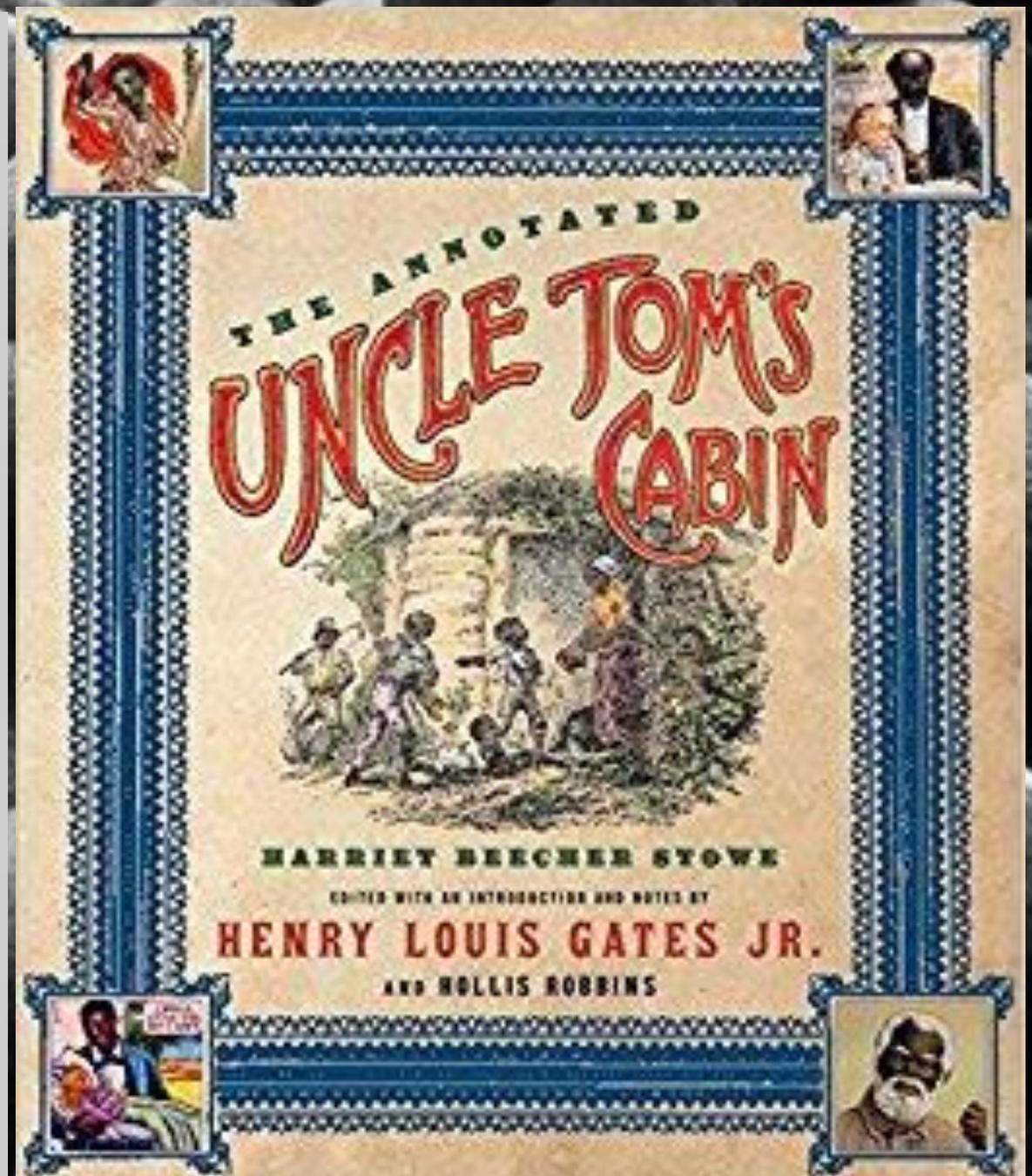
- “I could not comprehend the justice of that law, or that religion, which upholds or recognizes the principle of slavery;”
 - — Solomon Northup, Twelve Years a Slave
- “There's a sin, a fearful sin, resting on this nation, that will not go unpunished forever. There will be reckoning yet ... it may be sooner or it may be later, but it's a coming as sure as the Lord is just”
 - — Solomon Northup, Twelve Years a Slave



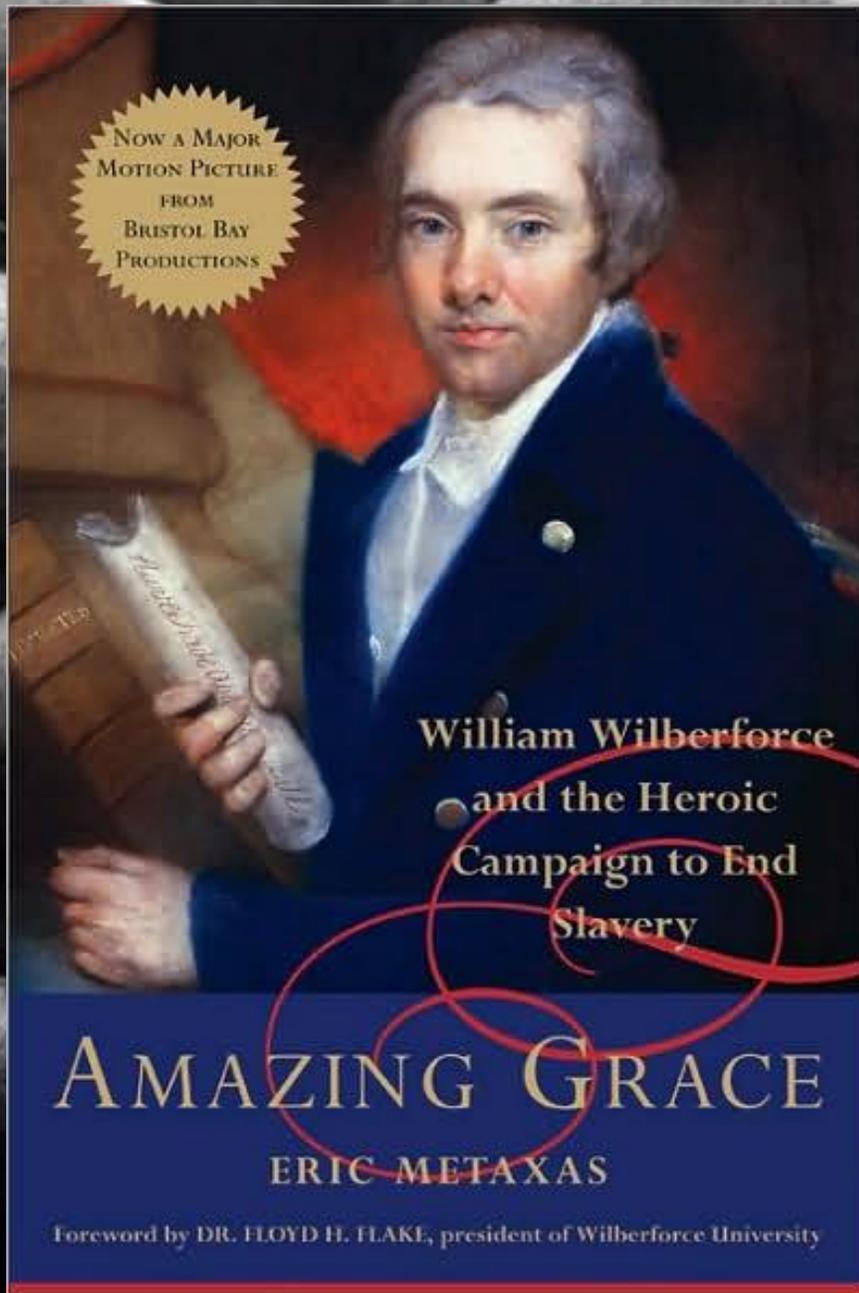


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- “Although my memory's fading, I remember two things very clearly: I am a great sinner and Christ is a great Savior.”

- — John Newton, *Amazing Grace*

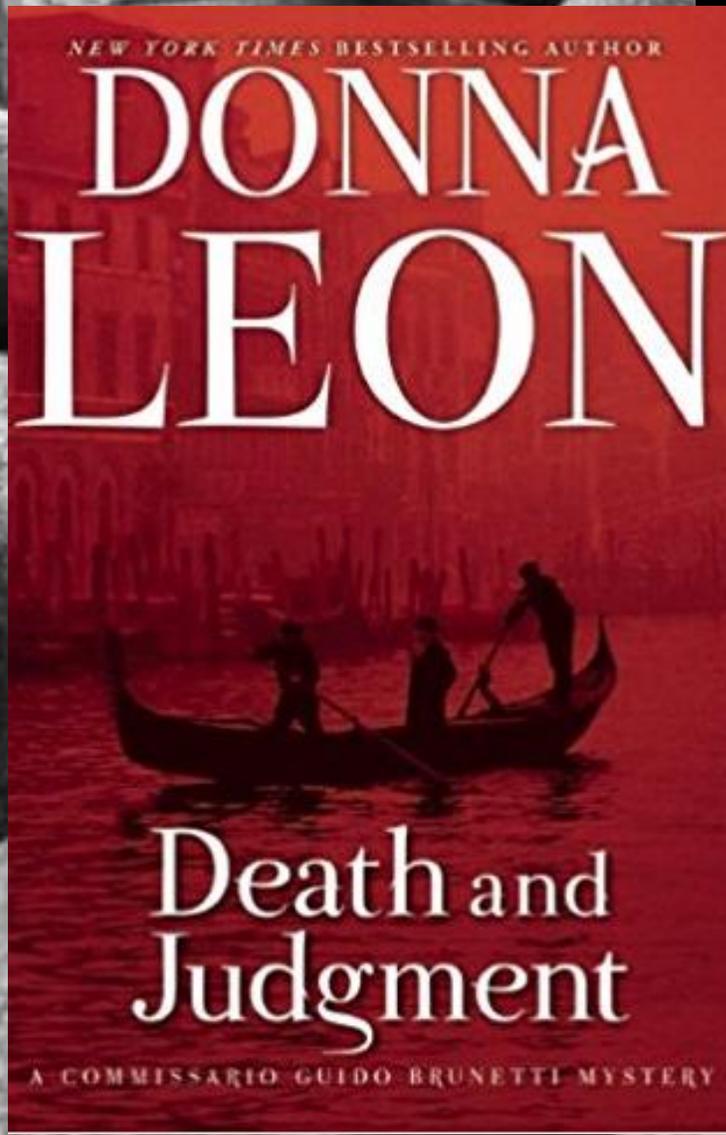
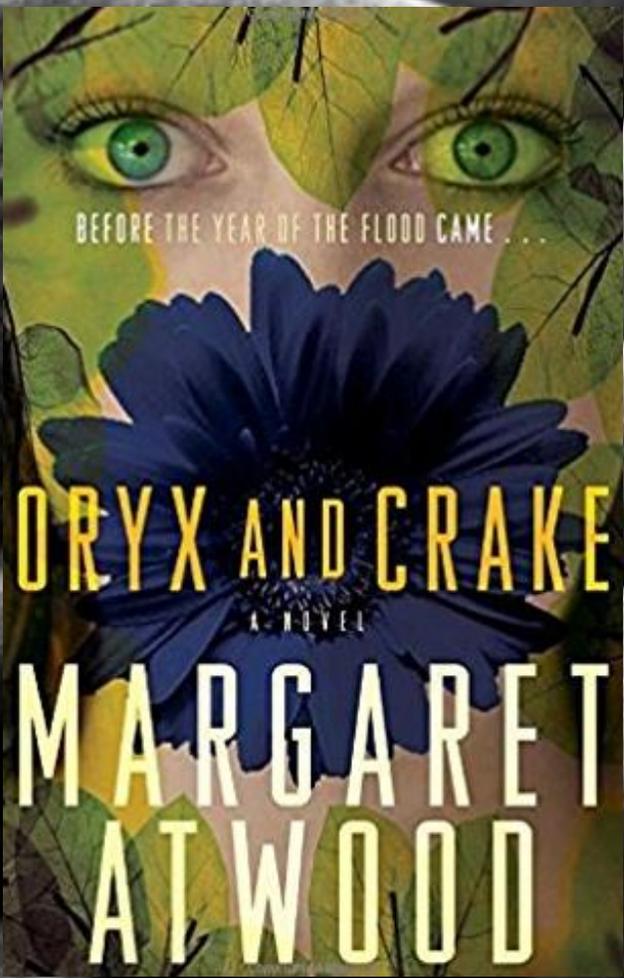


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• “Secrets lose their power when they are no longer secrets.”

- — Theresa L. Flores, *The Slave Across the Street: The True Story of How an American Teen Survived the World of Human Trafficking*





- “Of course, in a novel, people’s hearts break, and they die, and that is the end of it; and in a story this is very convenient. **But in real life we do not die when all that makes life bright dies to us.** There is a most busy and important round of eating, drinking, dressing, walking, visiting, buying, selling, talking, reading, **and all that makes up what is commonly called living, yet to be gone through...**”
 - — Harriet Beecher Stowe, Uncle Tom's Cabin

