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SUMMARY KEYWORDS

disability, confront, source, helen keller, suffragette movement, oppression, advocate, working, reflected, people, low wage workers, quotation, factory workers, climate orbiter, effects, protest, marginalized, rosa, youtube channel, measurement

SPEAKERS

Becca Human

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Becca Human 00:00

Many people know Helen Keller as a young girl was able to overcome her deafness and blindness to interact with the world around her.
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Becca Human 00:05

But what most people don't know is that Helen Keller actually lead a badass adult life.
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Becca Human 00:10

Helen Keller was actually a radical socialist so radical that she was on an FBI watch list for most of her adult life. Helen Keller was a socialist because she saw the issues of disability rights and labor rights in the United States to be inextricably linked. By advocating for people with disabilities. She also had to advocate for low wage workers. And by finding the root of that oppression, she thought it would be easier to advocate for many different kinds of marginalized people. And it's that idea of finding the root of our oppression that's reflected in today's quotation by Alice Walker, "healing begins where the wound was made." What we can take from this quotation is that if we want to heal a wound, we have to go to where the wound was made, and otherwise, in other words, if we're facing some

kind of social problem or oppression, we have to go to the source of that oppression, not just deal with the effects of it, we can agree with this quotation and take from it, we must confront the sources of oppression and not just its effects.

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Becca Human 01:06

We can see this first, because confronting the story source stops errors from being made in the future. And that second, we should listen to marginalized people to identify these sources of oppression. Hellen Keller realized that the way that the United States treated low wage workers in the United States was the source of much of the oppression facing disabled people. So the first way we can see that we have to confront this source of oppression and not just the effects is because confronting the source source stops those errors from being made in the future. And we can see that reflected first through the Climate Orbiter and second through the Triangle Shirtwaist fire protest.

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Becca Human 01:49

But first, the Climate Orbiter was a drone that NASA was working on sent to orbit Mars, with one small error. Most of the teams working on the climate orbiter we're using the metric system of measurement. With the exception of one team, who I guess thought it would just be cool to use the English style of measurements, but because that one team made this fatal error, the drone ended up exploding once it was launched completely ruining millions of taxpayer dollars. What NASA took from this, though, was that they had to confront this source of what went wrong. Instead of simply seeing this as something they had to avoid. They made sure to clarify from that point onward, that they had to fix the source and make sure everyone was using a standardized style of measurement. They understood that they had to find the source of the problem and not simply address the effects.

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Becca Human 02:36

That same idea is reflected through the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory protest. In 1911, the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory burned to the ground, killing hundreds of workers because they didn't have any safety protocols in place for the factory workers who were working there. So the community decided to confront this source of oppression. Instead of simply rebuilding the factory they protested for weeks until many of the labor laws that we still use today came into effect, such as safety protocols for factory workers, and even laws like the minimum wage. People who worked on the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory protest understood, they had to confront the source of this problem and not simply address the effects.

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Becca Human 03:16

So the first way we can see we must confront the source of oppression is because confronting that source stops those problems from being made again. But once we confront the s-, in order to confront the source, we have to know exactly where the wound is in the first place.

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Becca Human 03:30

So the second way we can see that we have to confront the source of oppression is by talking to marginalized people in order to identify where that oppression is coming from. We can see that idea reflected first "your special books for special kids," and second through Rosa May Billinghamurst.

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Becca Human 03:45

But first, "special books for special kids" is a YouTube channel started by a special education teacher who worked with kids with disabilities. He eventually realized that many of these children with unique disabilities simply weren't having their voices heard. So he started a YouTube channel in which he talks to them and has conversations with them, letting them lead the conversation as they express just how living with their specific disability impacts their lives. The important part about this YouTube channel is that it's centered around the people with disabilities. They're able to express their own perspectives and in doing so, they're able to express just where they see the source of the problem in their lives is coming from, which usually isn't their disability. It's usually how able bodied people treat them differently because of their disability.

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Becca Human 04:32

That same idea of listening to marginalize people is reflected through Rosa May Billinghamurst, who was known as the crippled suffragette, when she was working on the original suffragette movement. She was a suffragette who advocated from a wheelchair, and she was targeted because of her disability. Sometimes cops would throw her out of her wheelchair onto the street, just to try and intimidate her. But she had a unique voice in the suffragette movement. She was able to advocate both for women and for disabled people at the same time, and listening to her voice, let the suffragette movement hear where the source of the problem for her was coming from.

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Becca Human 05:07

So through "special books for special kids" and Rosa May Billingham, we can see that we must listen to marginalized people to find the source of oppression.



Becca Human 05:14

So today when you return to the quotation by Alice Walker, "healing begins where the wound was made," we saw that we have to confront the source of oppression, not just its effects. First because confronting it will stop that error from being made again, and that we must listen to marginalized people just like Helen Keller knew how to do.