

WHAT'S YOUR BETTERWORLD ISSUE?

ENDING SLAVERY



"slavery still exists today...if you count the number of women and children in bonded labor, domestic slavery or sexual slavery today, there are more slaves in the world than at any other time in history."

-- Charlotte Bunch

Slavery was abolished 150 years ago, right? While it is true that slavery is illegal almost everywhere on earth, there are more slaves today than there ever were - more than 27 million. Most of the world's slaves are in Africa, Asia and the Middle East, but slaves are everywhere - even America. Each year, more than 50,000 men, women and children are smuggled into the US against their will. This is called "human trafficking." People are tricked into coming with offers of good jobs or education, but instead are forced to work as domestic or sex slaves, or in agriculture fields or sweat shops. They are physically abused and terrorized into staying enslaved.

While some slaves are 'bought' in the way slaves had been in the past, most contemporary slaves are enslaved through "debt bondage" and may not even realize they are enslaved. A person borrows money and agrees to work until they can pay back the loan, but they never can, because the lender keeps increasing the interest rate and changes the books. Many families are indebted for generation after generation from a tiny original loan the family can never pay back.

Most people don't know that there are still slaves, but when they find out they are outraged and want to do something about it. Fortunately there are a number of international organizations working to end slavery and help the victims once they are freed. With more public awareness, more of those enslaved are being set free.

The United Nations has designated December 2 as The International Day for the Abolition of Slavery to commemorate the December 2, 1949 International Convention against human trafficking and to raise awareness about the continuing struggle to end slavery.

Do One Thing for a Better World

- Find out more about slavery today (Watch a film like "Amazing Grace" or "Not For Sale" for starters)
- Promote the global campaign to end slavery
- Support organizations working to abolish slavery

END SLAVERY Links

- American Anti-Slavery Group (iabolish.org)
 - Anti-Slavery International (antislavery.org)
 - Free The Children (freethechildren.com)
 - Free The Slaves (freetheslaves.net)
 - Not For Sale (notforsalecampaign.org)
 - One Voice To End Slavery (onevoicetoendslavery.com)
- Rescue & Restore Hotline (1.888.373.7888)

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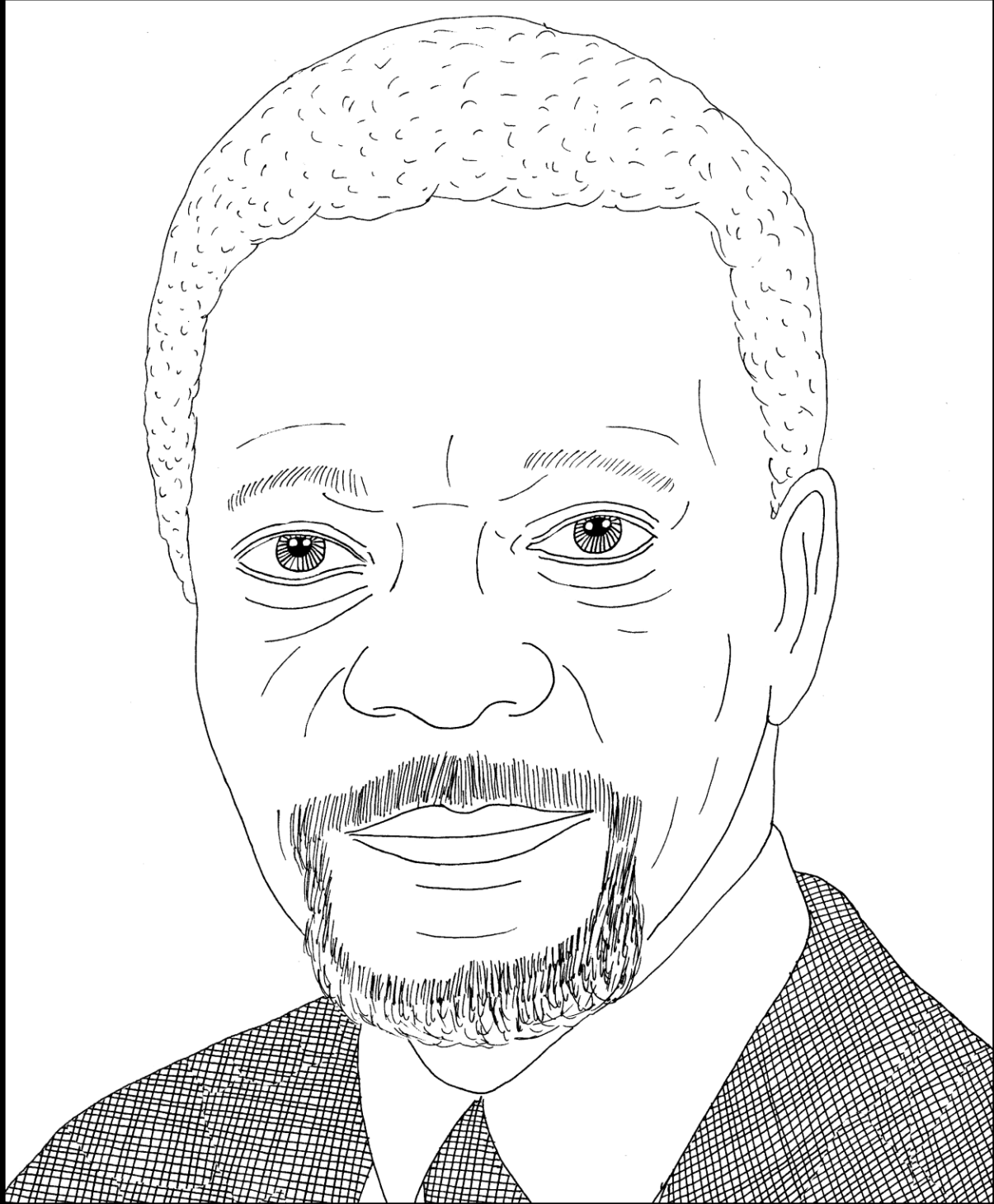
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"Human beings are not property...let us reaffirm the inherent dignity of all men, women and children. And let us redouble our efforts so that the words of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights — 'no one shall be held in slavery or servitude' — ring true."

-- Kofi Annan

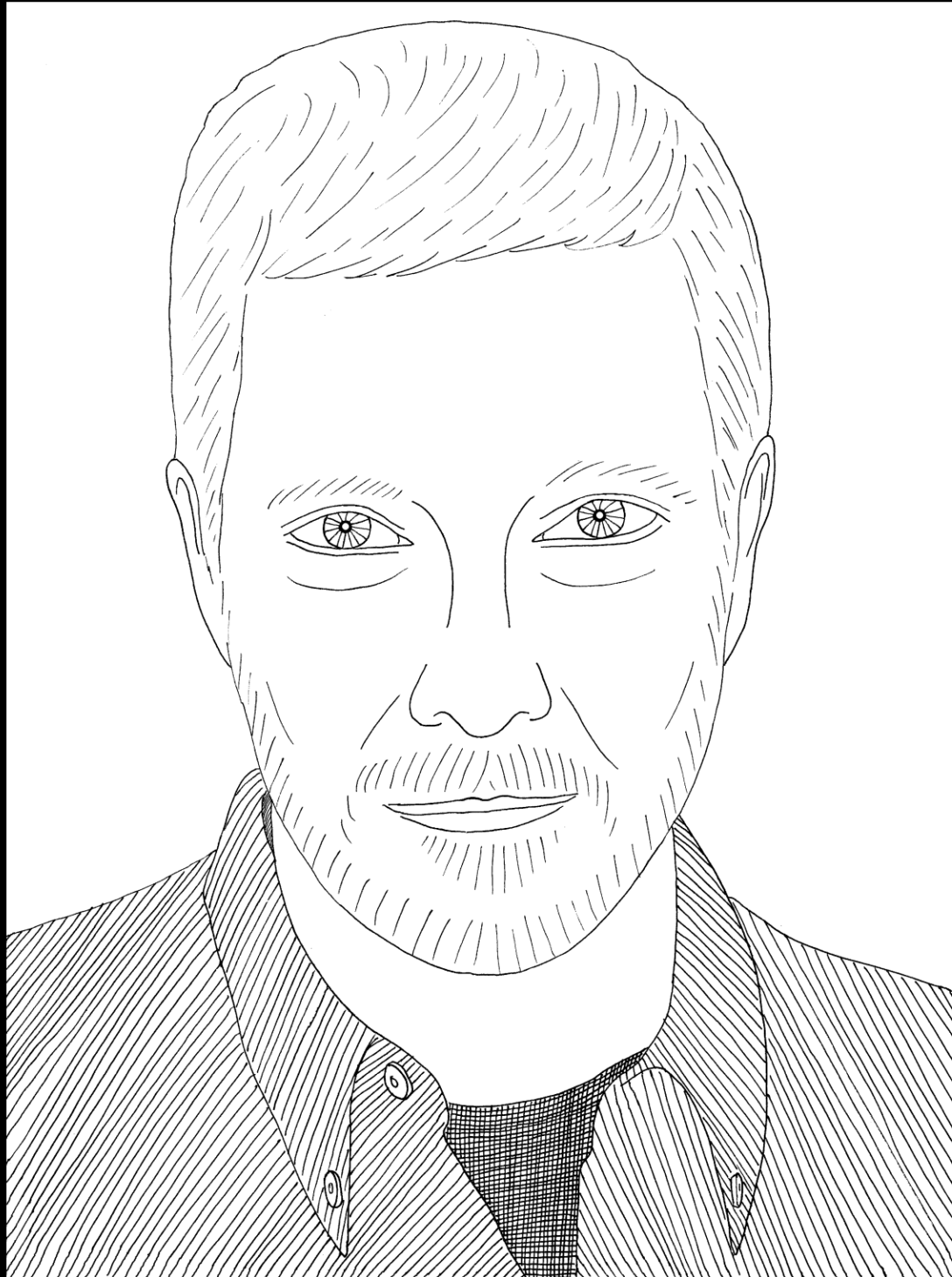
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"We could eradicate slavery. The laws are in place. The multi-nationals, the world trade organizations, the United Nations, they could end slavery, but they're not going to do it until and unless we demand it."

-- Kevin Bales

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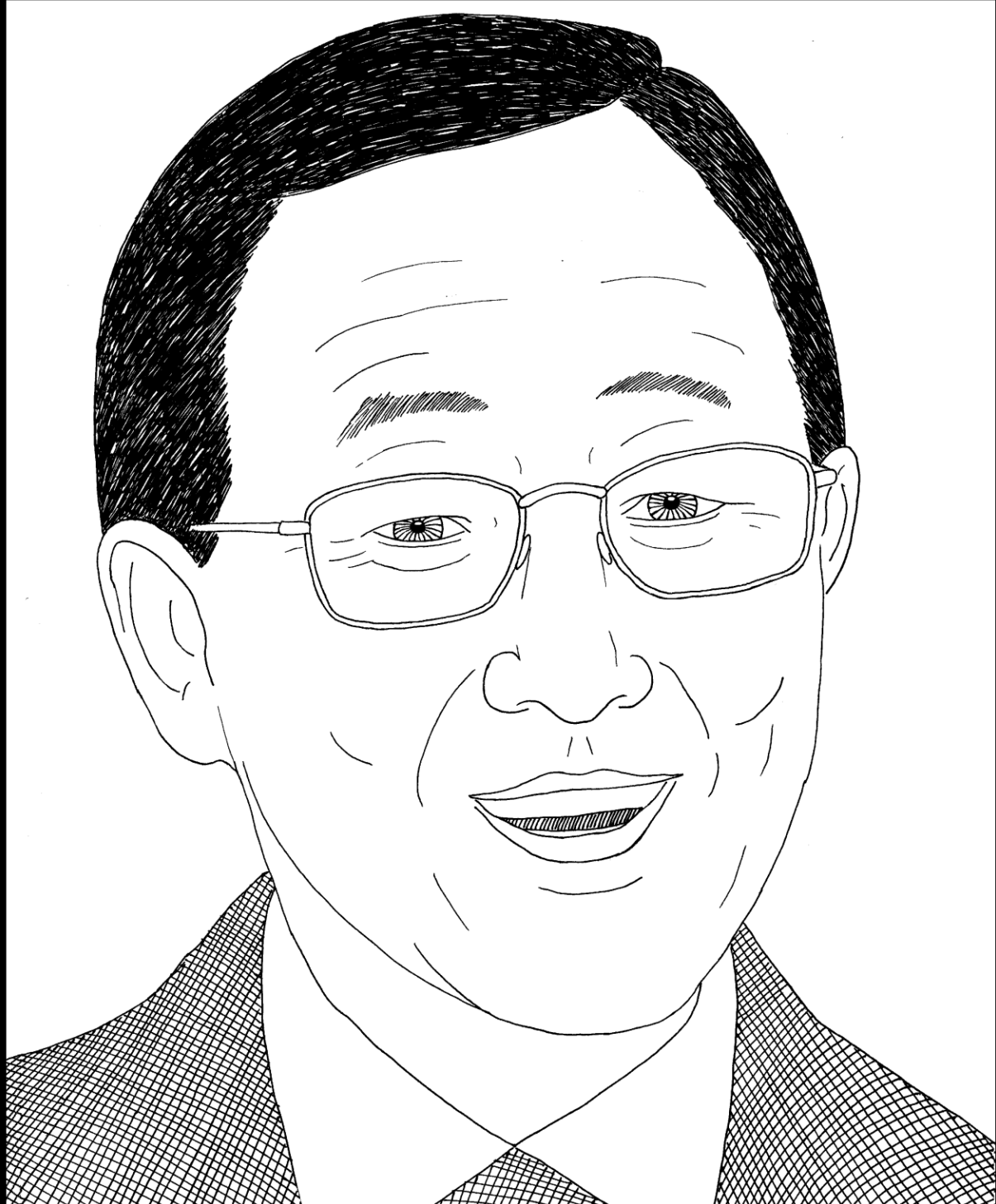
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"On this International Day for the Abolition of Slavery let us reaffirm the inherent dignity of all men, women and children. And let us redouble our efforts to build societies in which slavery truly is a term for the history books."

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon

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**"None who have always been free can understand the terrible fascinating power of the hope of freedom to those who are not free."
-- Pearl S. Buck**

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"...if you count the number of women and children in bonded labor, domestic slavery or sexual slavery today, there are more slaves in the world than at any other time in history."

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"The well-being and the hopes of the peoples of the world can never be served until peace - as well as freedom, honor and self-respect - is secure."
-- Ralph Bunche

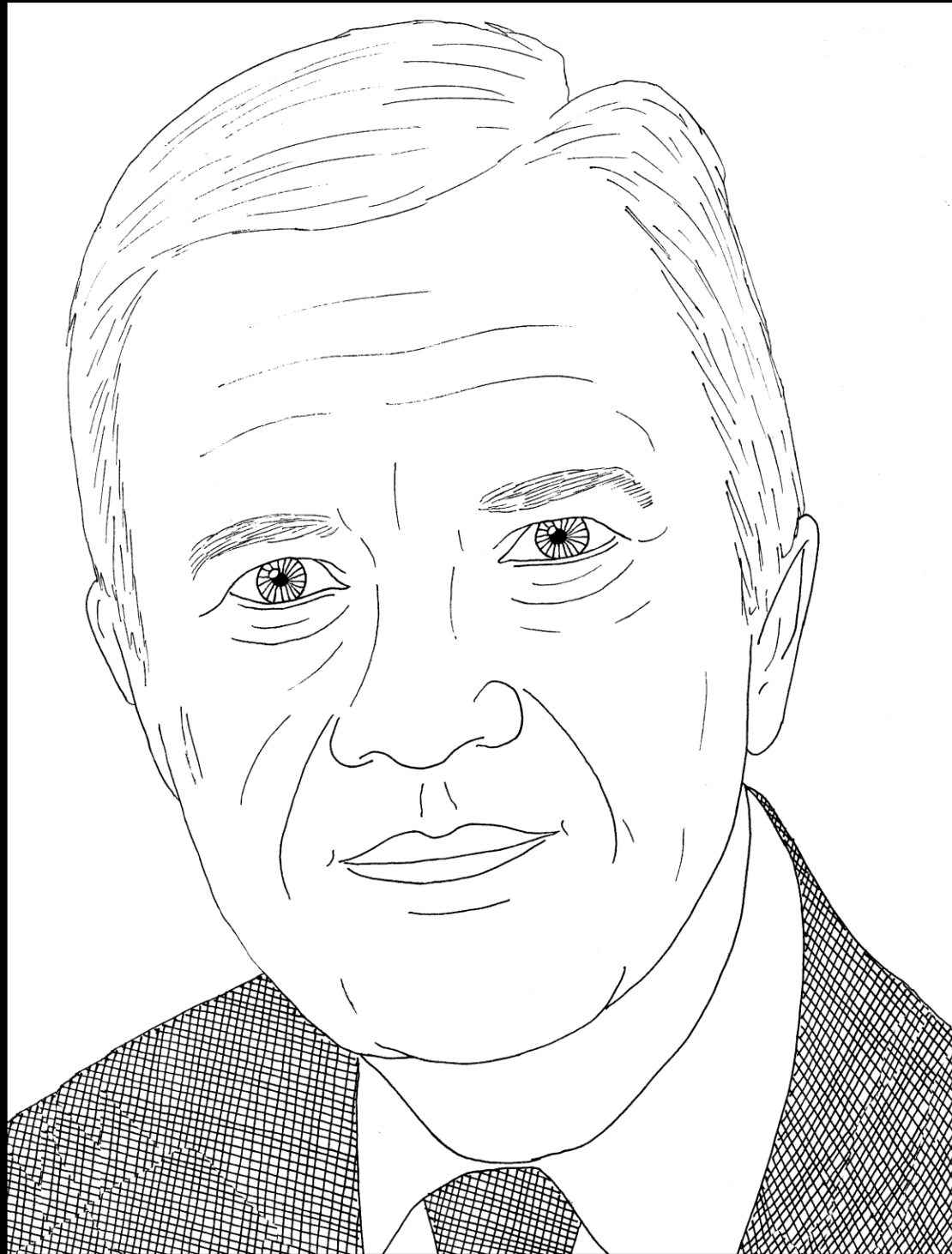
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**"Everyone has a right to peaceful coexistence,
the basic personal freedoms, the alleviation of suffering,
and the opportunity to lead a productive life..."**

-- Jimmy Carter

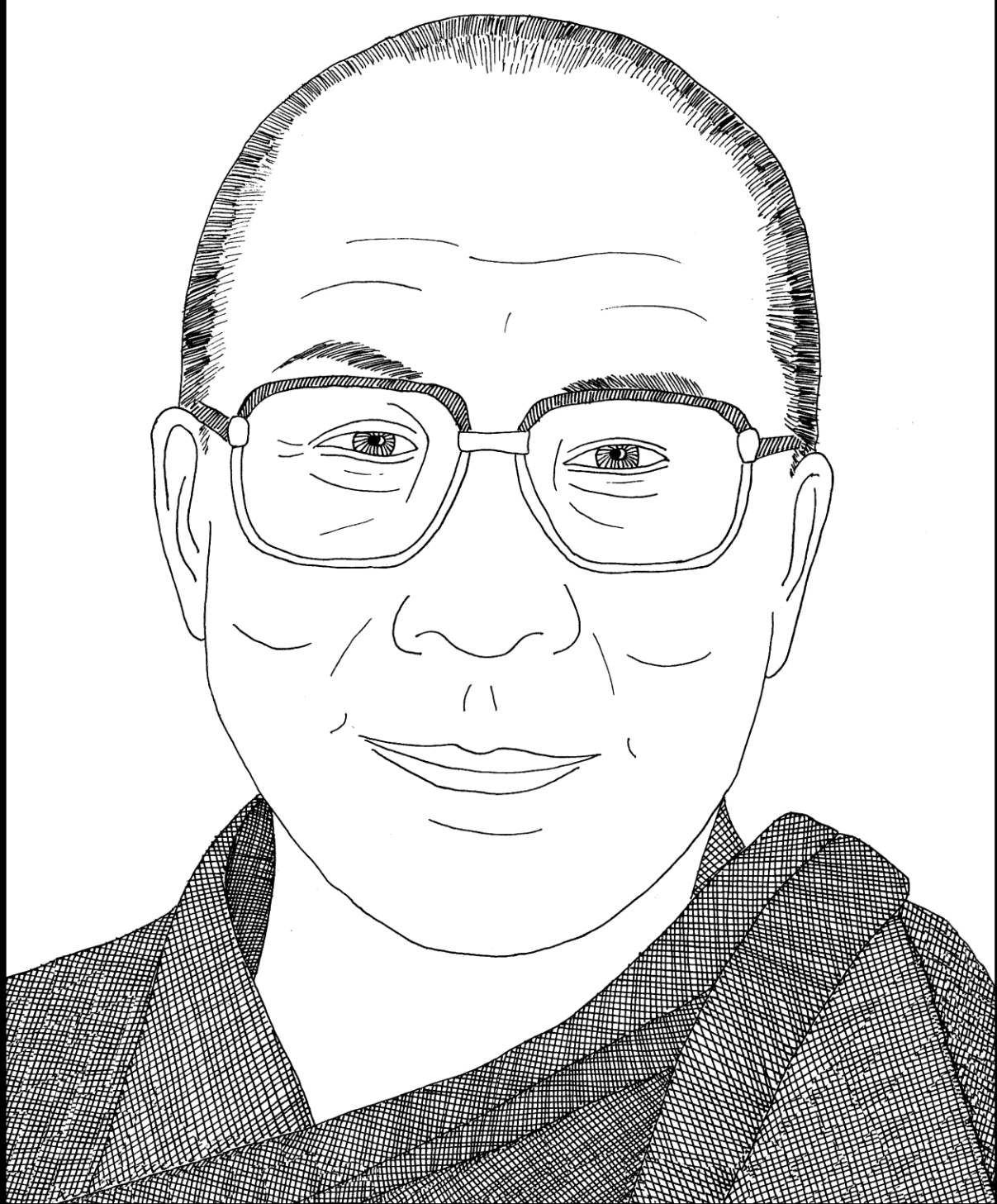
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**"Brute force, no matter how strongly applied,
can never subdue the basic human desire for freedom."
-- The Dalai Lama**

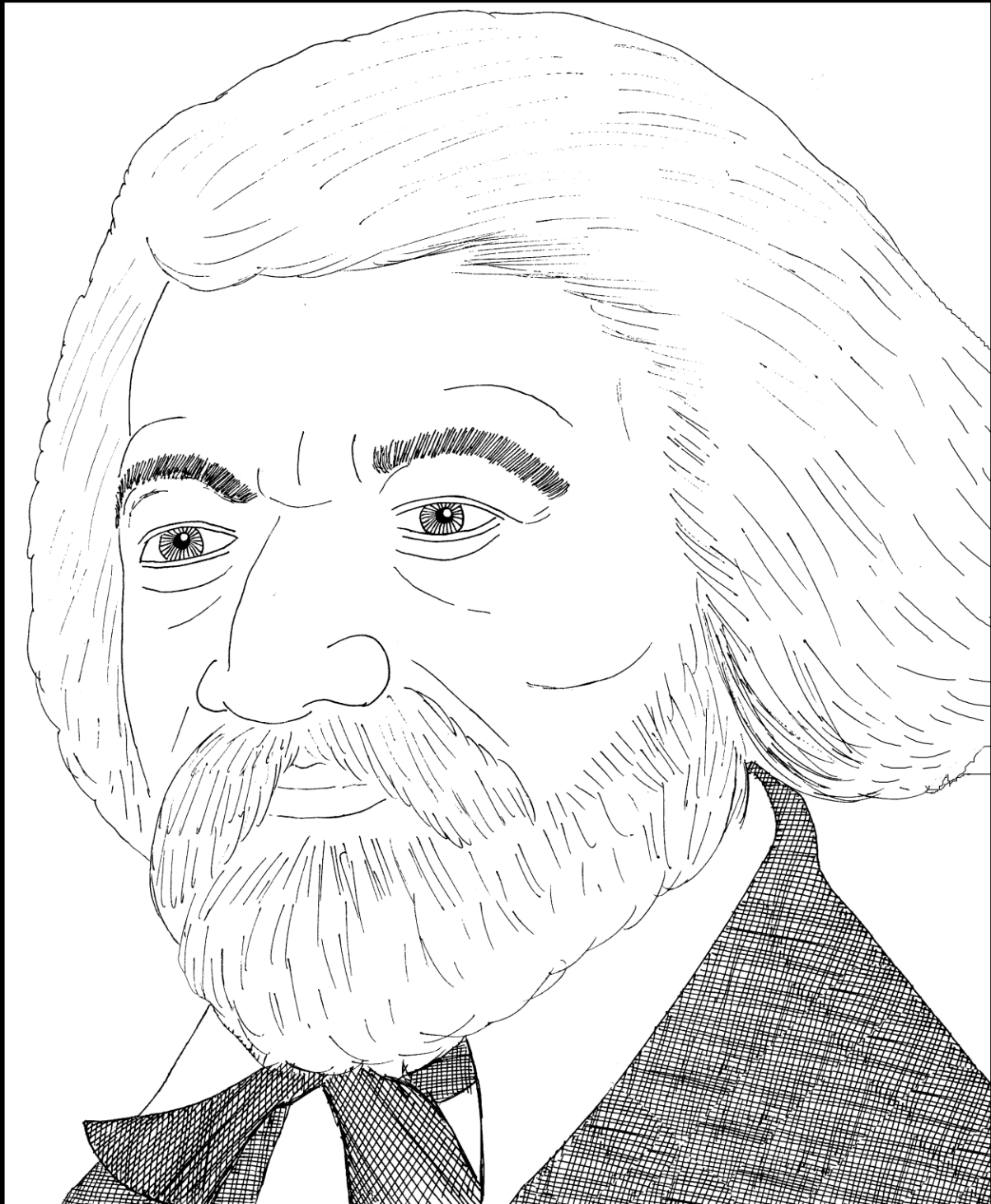
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**"I didn't know I was a slave until I found out I couldn't do the things I wanted."
-- Frederick Douglass**

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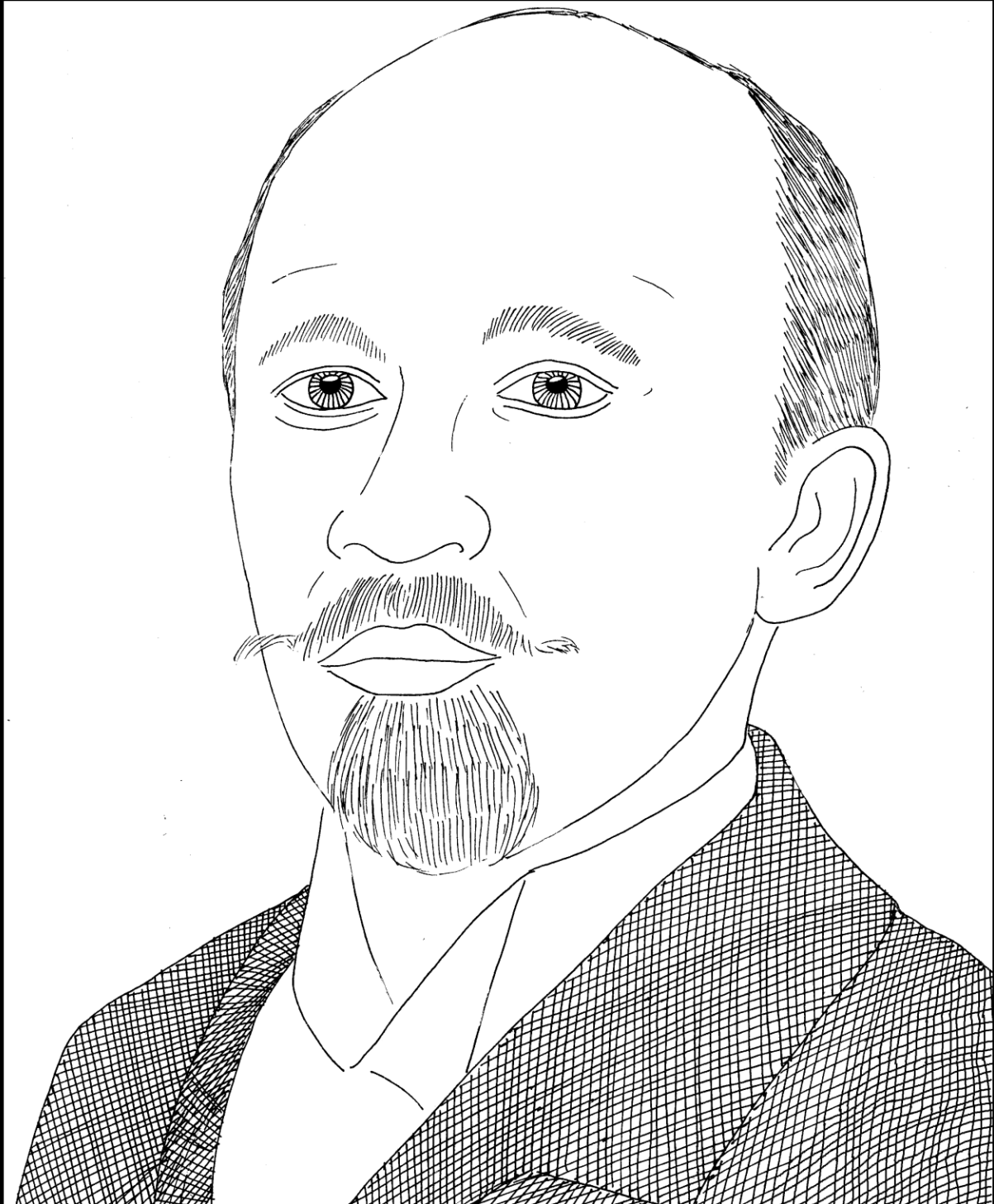
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**"There is in this world no such force as the force of a person determined to rise. The human soul cannot be permanently chained."
-- W. E. B. DuBois**

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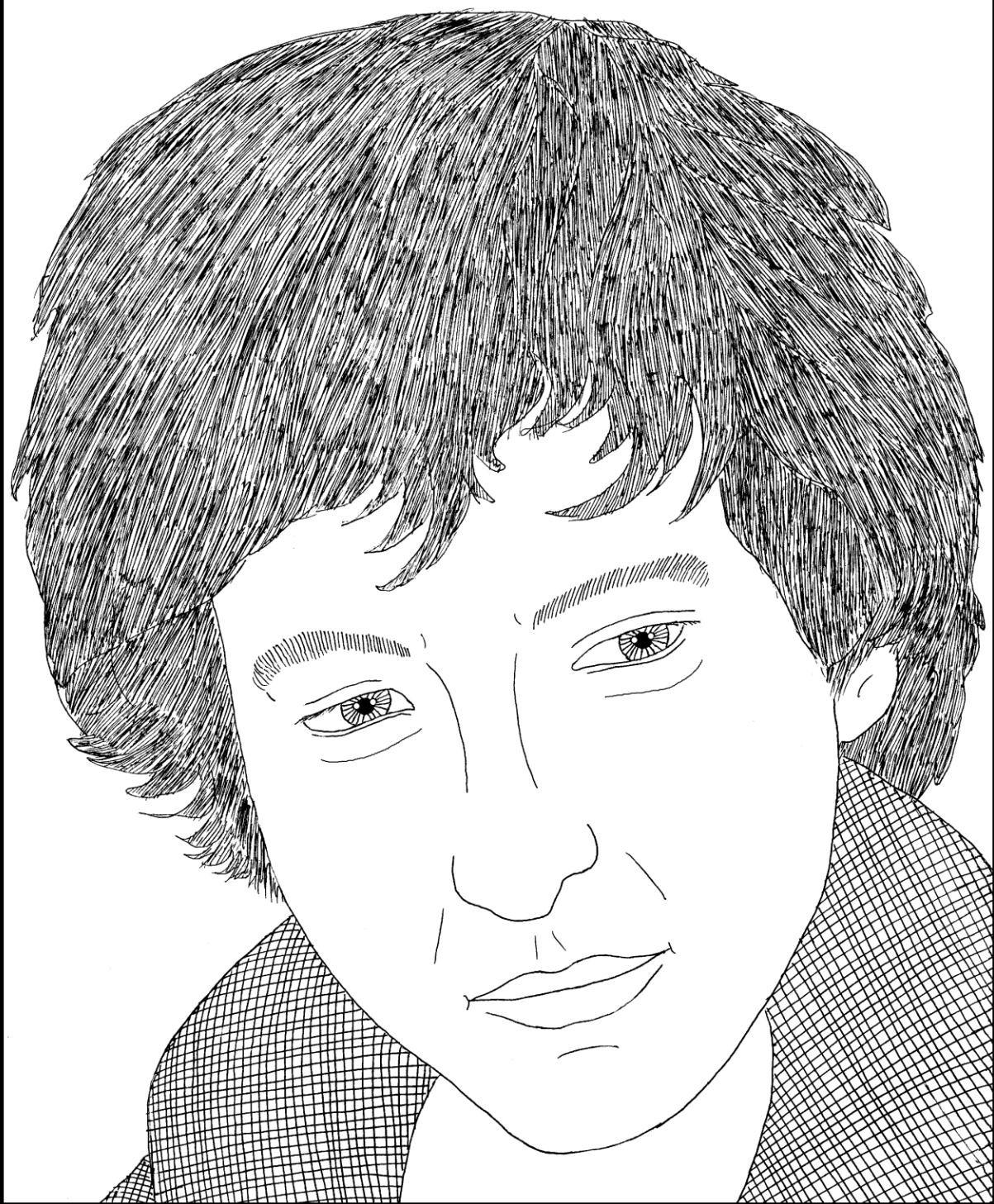
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**"How many years can some people exist
before they're allowed to be free..."**

-- Bob Dylan

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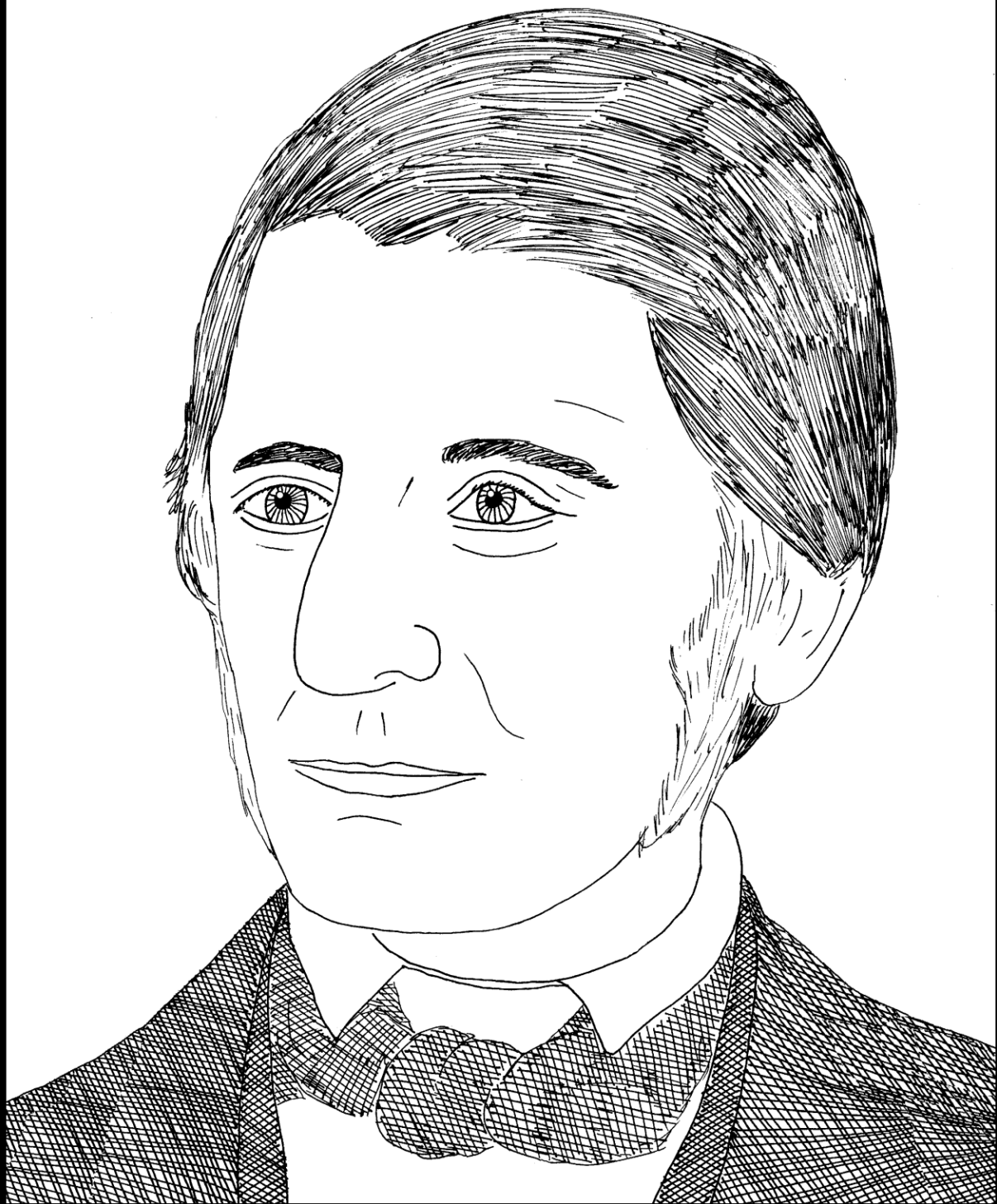
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**"For what avail the plough or sail, or land or life, if freedom fail?"
-- Ralph Waldo Emerson**

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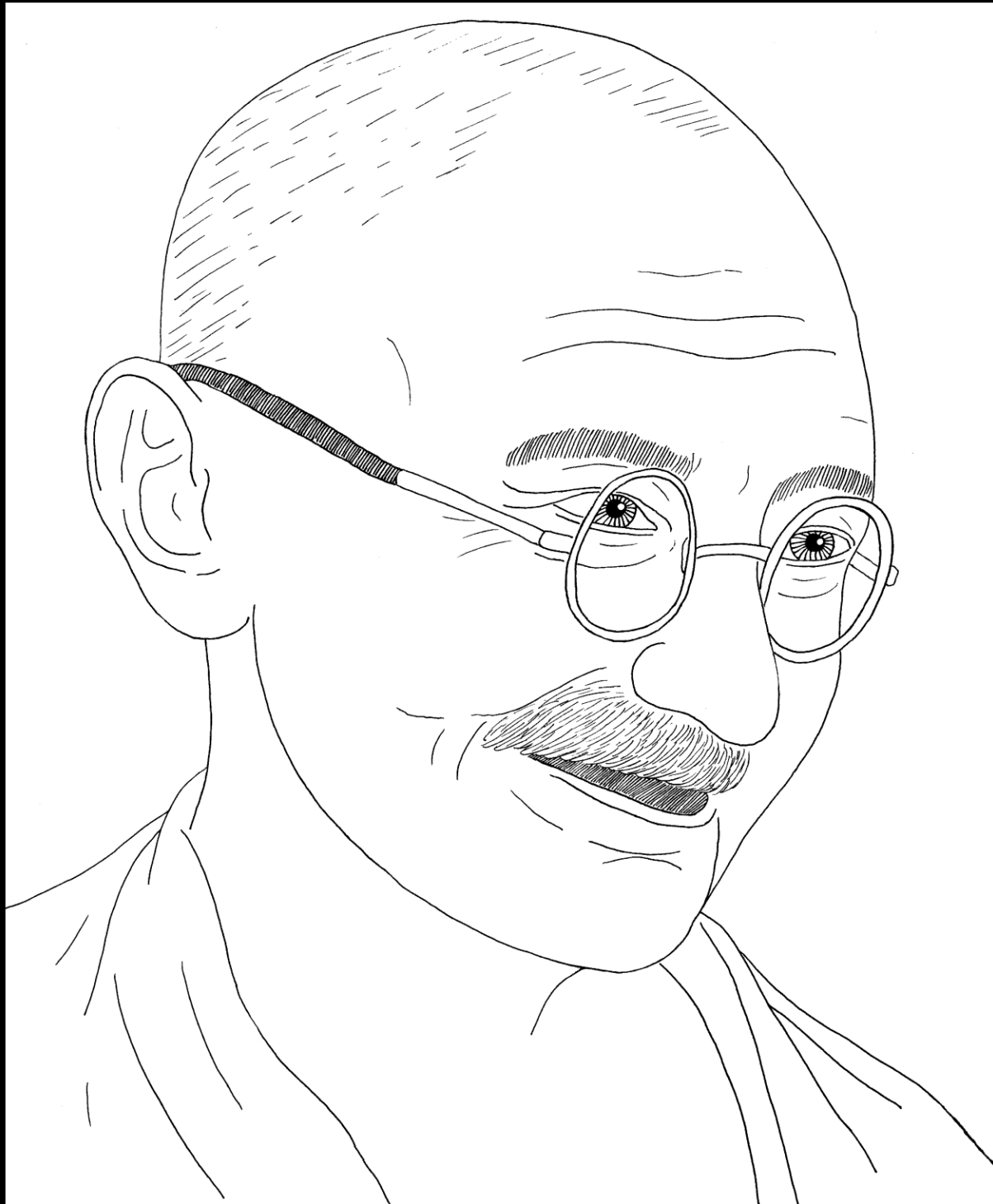
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**"There is no road to freedom, freedom is the road."
-- Mohandas Gandhi**

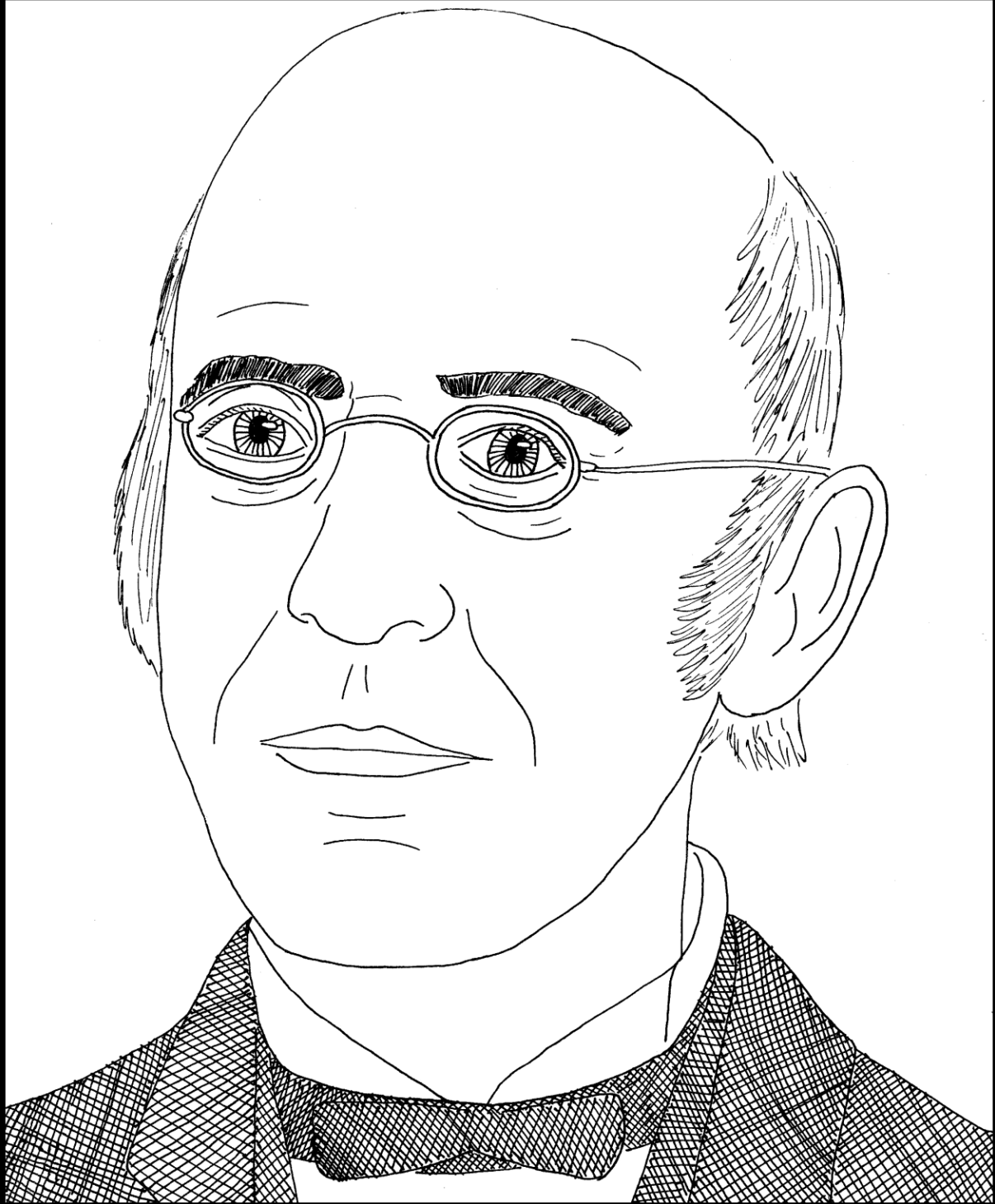
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**"Enslave the liberty of but one human being
and the liberties of the world are put in peril."
-- William Lloyd Garrison**

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**"Nobody's free until everybody's free."
-- Fannie Lou Hamer**

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"It doesn't take a genius to pump up the GNP by burning down rainforests, using slave labor and social repression to keep things in place."

-- Hazel Henderson

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"Yes, a new day is here. Across America -- throughout the entire world -- the forces of emancipation are at work. We hear freedom's rising chorus: 'Let me live my own life. Let me live in peace. Let me be free,' say the people."
-- Hubert Humphrey

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**"I know that there are no limits to which the powers
of privilege will not go to keep the workers in slavery."
-- Mother Jones**

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"It's easier to be ignorant and say I don't know about the problem. But once you know, once you've seen it in their eyes, then you have a responsibility to do something. There is strength in numbers, and if we all work together as a team, we can be unstoppable."

-- Craig Kielburger, Founder, Free The Children

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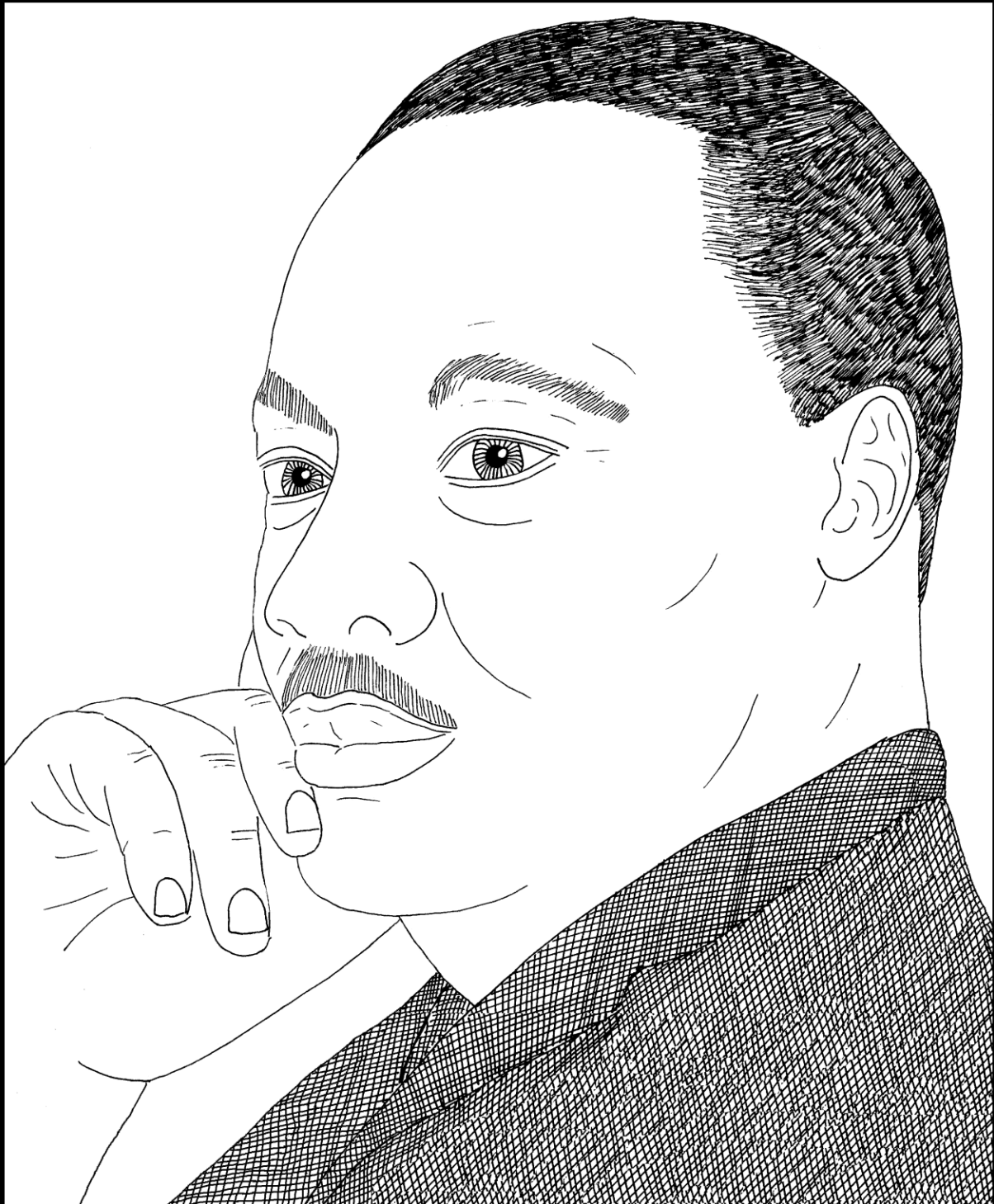
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"As long as the mind is enslaved, the body can never be free. Psychological freedom, a firm sense of self-esteem, is the most powerful weapon against the long night of physical slavery."

-- Martin Luther King, Jr.

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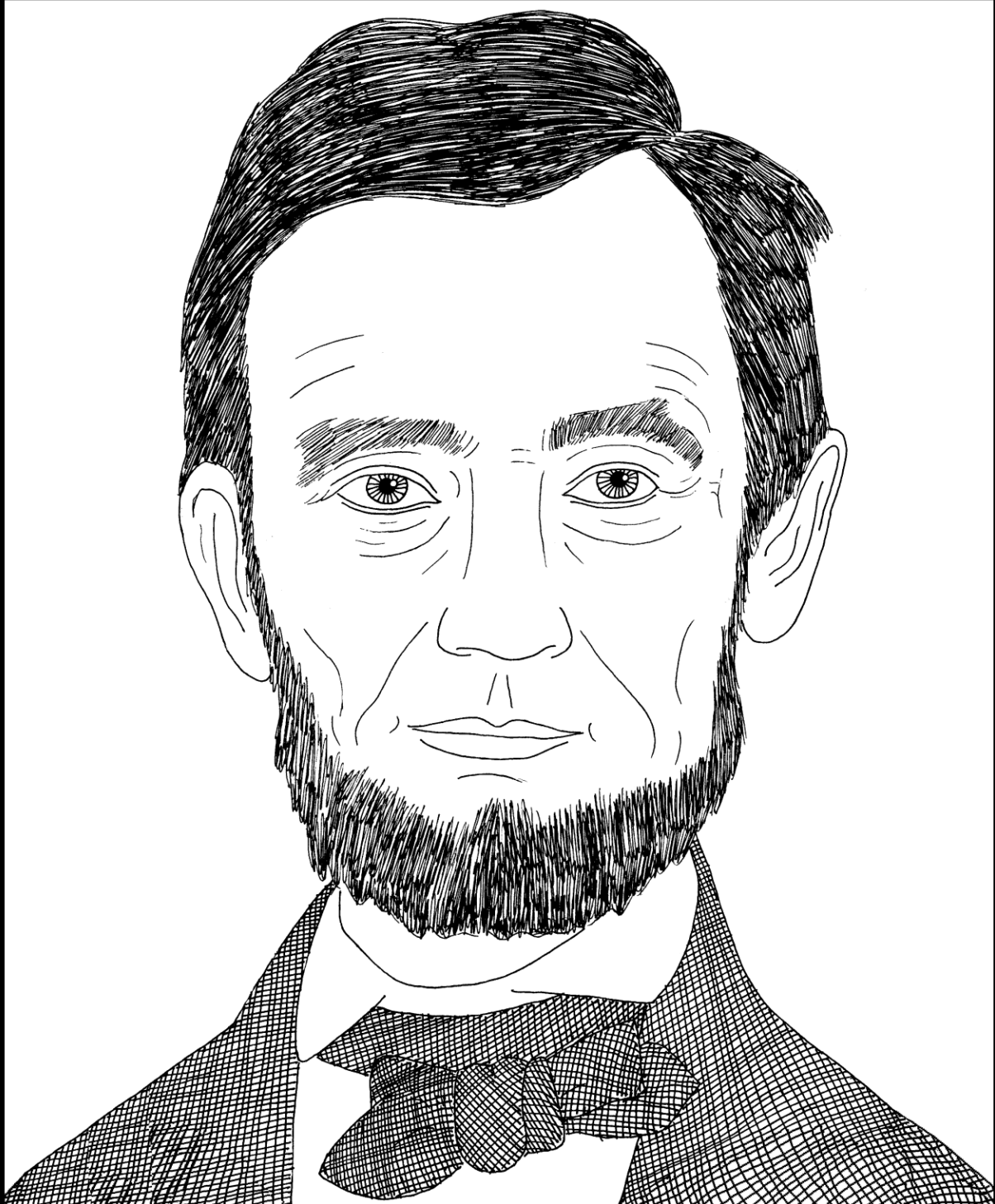
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**"Those who deny freedom to others deserve it not for themselves."
-- Abraham Lincoln**

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"Massive poverty and obscene inequality are such terrible scourges of our times -- times in which the world boasts breathtaking advances in science, technology, industry and wealth accumulation -- that they have to rank alongside slavery and apartheid as social evils."

-- Nelson Mandela

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**“Emancipate yourselves from mental slavery.
None but ourselves can free our minds.
Won't you help to sing the songs of freedom?”
-- Bob Marley**

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"The saddest sight these days is the image of hundreds of thousands of children kidnapped and lured into being child soldiers from the age of eight."
-- Roger Moore

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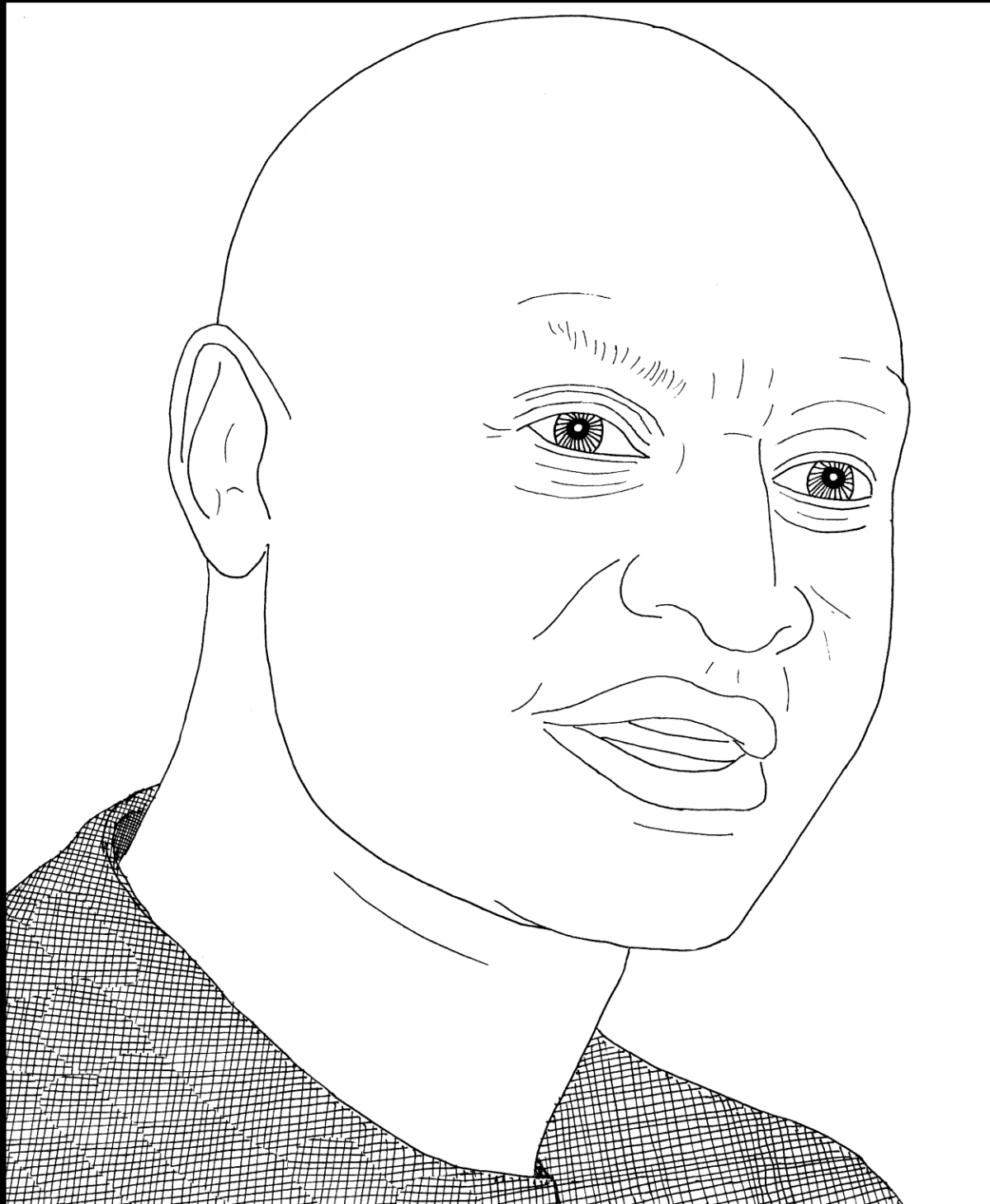
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"Compelled to become instruments of war, to kill and be killed,
child soldiers are forced to give violent expression to the hatreds of adults."
-- Olara Otunnu

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**"Caged birds sing of freedom, free birds fly."
-- Thorolf Rafto**

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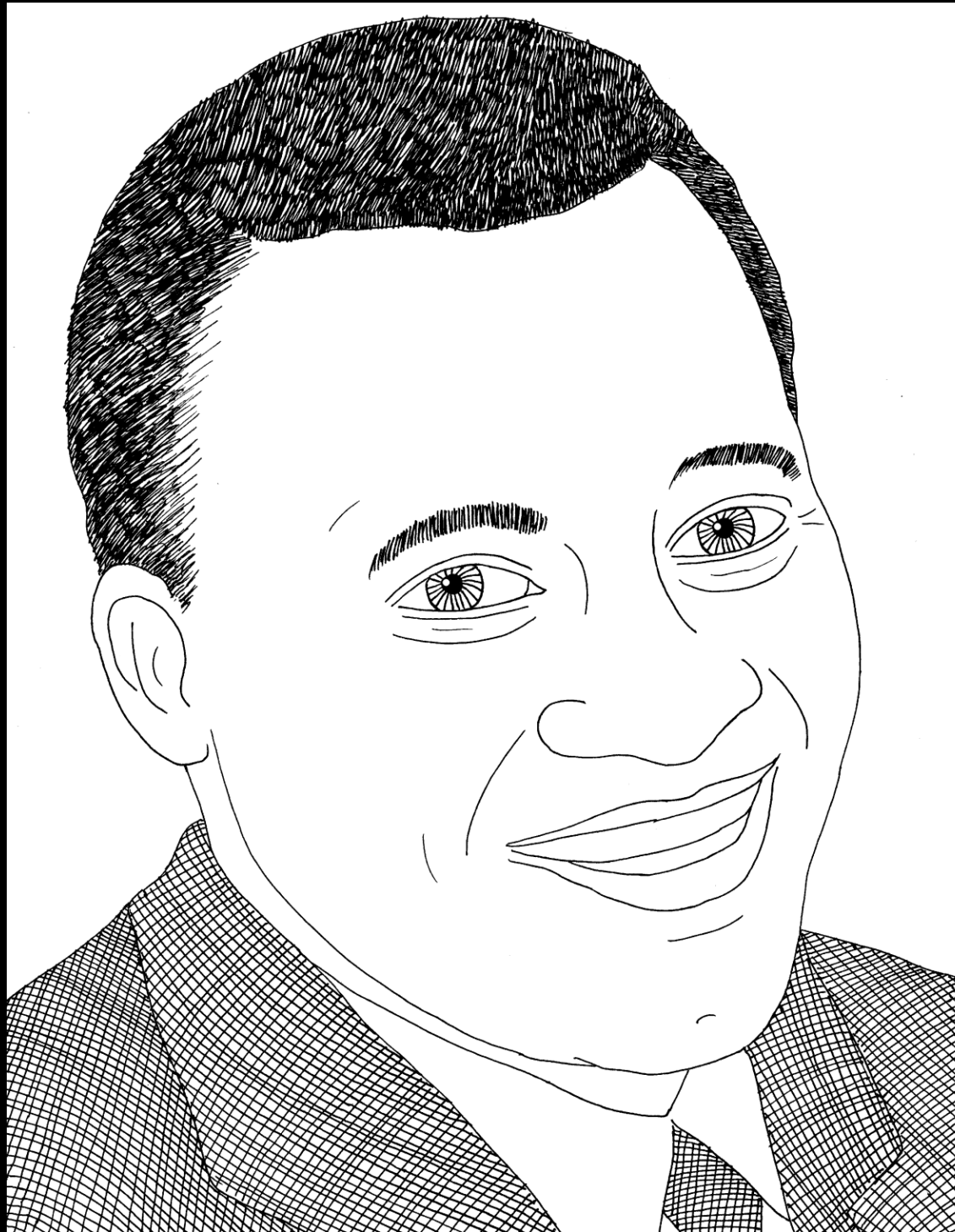
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**"The artist must elect to fight for Freedom or for Slavery."
-- Paul Robeson**

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**"Slavery was abolished 150 years ago, right?
While it is true that slavery is illegal almost everywhere on earth,
the fact is there are more slaves today than there ever were..."**

-- Robert Alan Silverstein

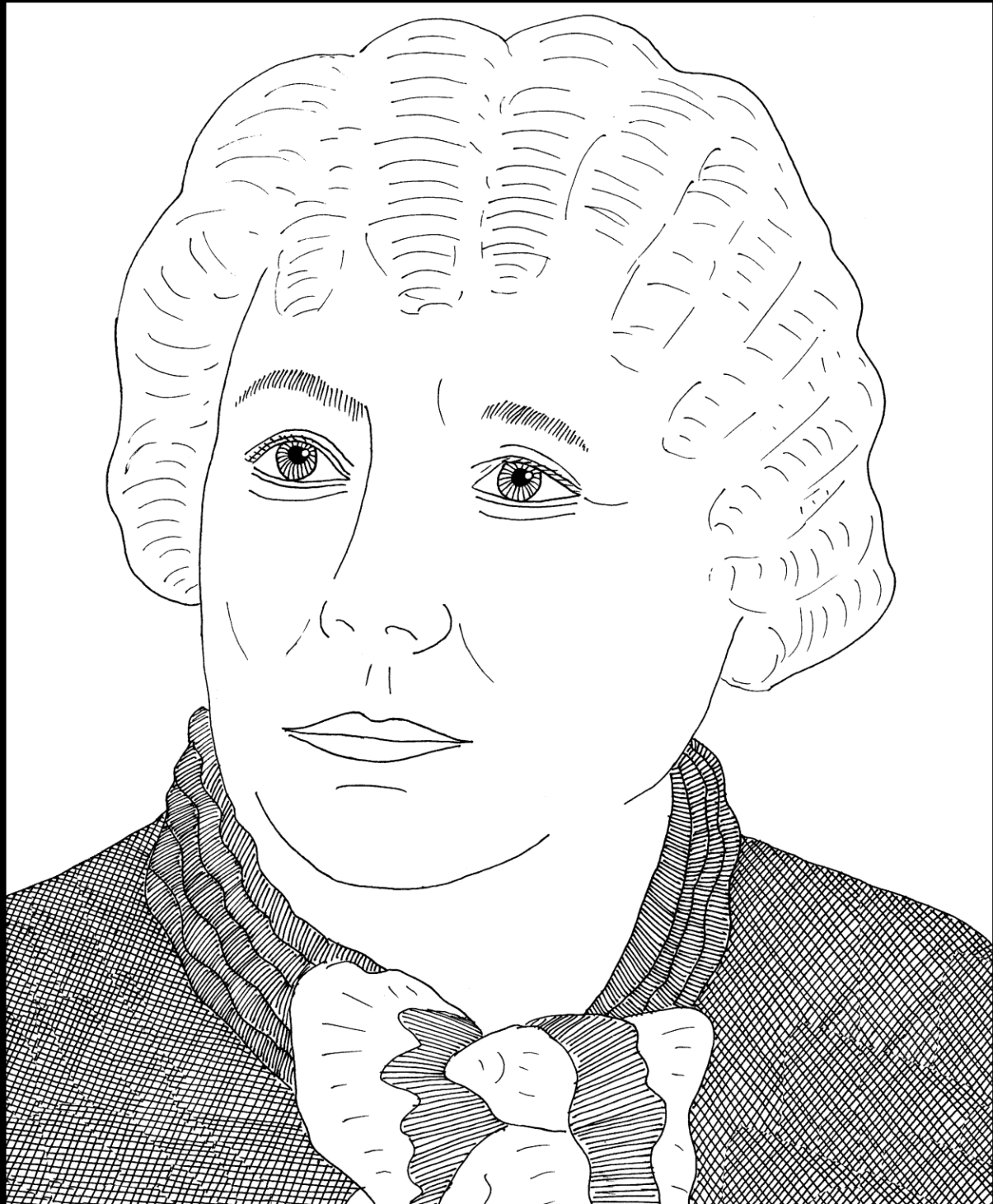
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**"The prolonged slavery of women is the darkest page in human history."
-- Elizabeth Cady Stanton**

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**"...it is impossible to make anything beautiful or desirable
in the best regulated administration of slavery."**

-- Harriet Beecher Stowe

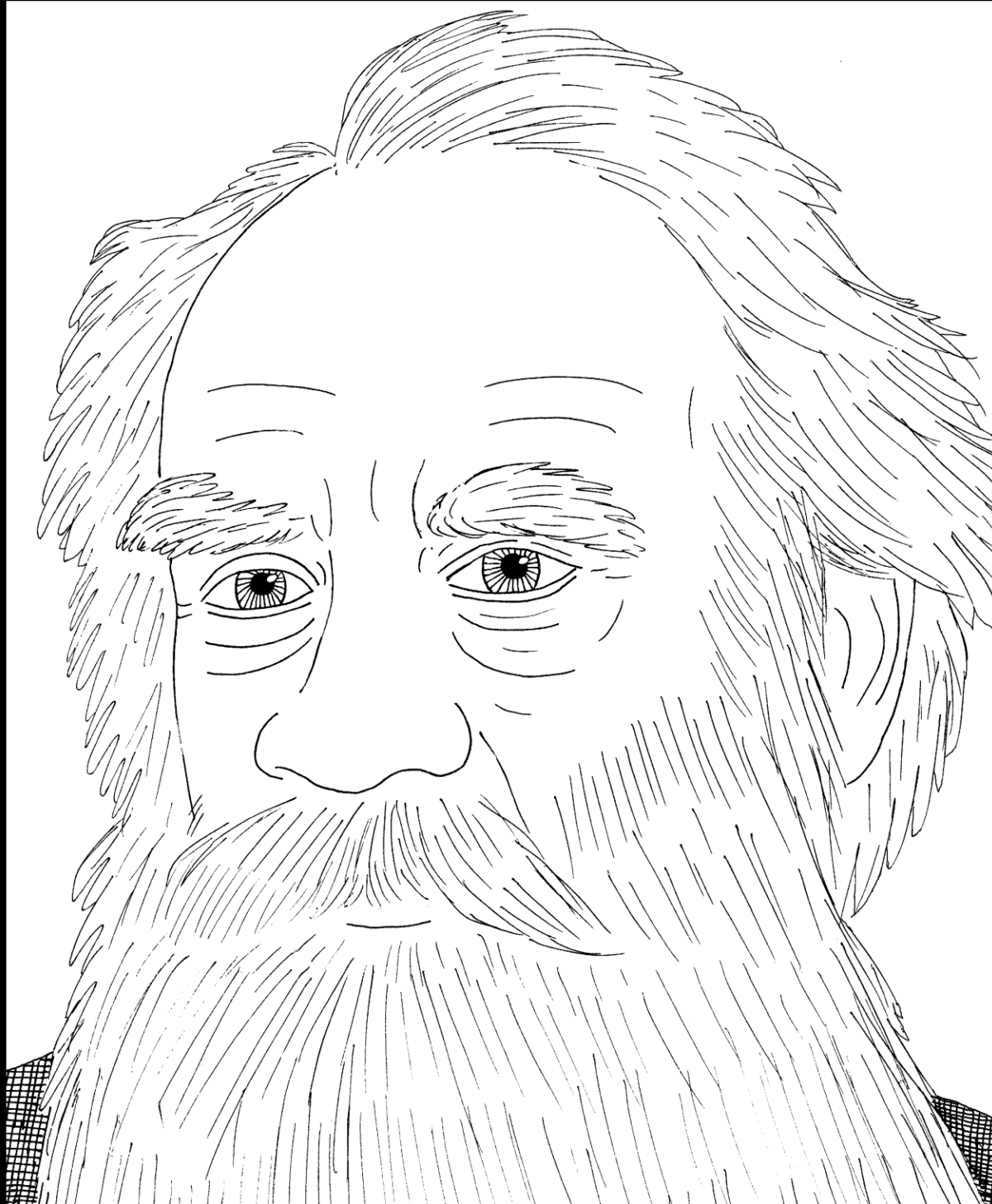
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"The essence of all slavery consists in taking the product of another's labor by force. It is immaterial whether this force be founded upon ownership of the slave or ownership of the money that he must get to live."

-- Leo Tolstoy

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**“I freed a thousand slaves I could have freed a thousand more if only they knew they were slaves.”
-- Harriet Tubman**

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"...nothing on earth can stop man from feeling himself born for liberty. Never, whatever may happen, can he accept servitude; for he is a thinking creature."

-- Simone Weil

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