### Where do you feel safe, unquestioned, at home?

The ache for home lives in all of us, the safe place where we can go as we are and not be questioned.

**Maya Angelou**

### How do you negotiate and leverage your feelings – joy, sadness, anger, fear, trust, distrust, surprise, anticipation – in your day to day life?

My anger didn’t destroy me. It did not leave me alone and desolate. On the contrary, my anger undergirded my calling, my vocation. It gave me the courage to say hard things and write like black lives are on the line.

**Austin Channing Brown**

### What non-material wealth – affinities and affiliations, inheritance and insight – do you have because of your race?

I am black; I am in total fusion with the world, in sympathetic affinity with the earth, losing my id in the heart of the cosmos. I am black, not because of a curse, but because my skin has been able to capture all the cosmic effluvia. I am truly a drop of sun under the earth.

**Frantz Fanon**

### Whose assumptions, opinions and perspectives do you consider when you speak or post? Who’s your audience?

I’m writing for black people in the same way that Tolstoy was not writing for me, a 14-year-old coloured girl from Lorain, Ohio. I didn’t want to speak for black people. I wanted to speak to and be among. It’s us.

**Toni Morrison**

### Who values your life? Who celebrates your life? How do you know?

Yes, I glorify blackness. I love it. I love it in all its shades, from light black to blue black. Black, black, black. I relish it. It is me. I love it. And I make no apologies for it.

**Runoko Rashidi**

### (When) have you chosen or been forced to leave a job, a relationship, community or country due to racism?

You’ve got to learn to leave the table when love’s no longer being served.

**Nina Simone**
THE FOUR-FOLD WAY BY ANGELES ARRIEN, PH.D.

1) **Show up.** Choose to be present.
2) **Pay attention** to what has heart and meaning.
3) **Tell the truth** without blame or judgment. Truthfulness, authenticity and integrity develop vision and intuition.
4) **Be open, not attached, to outcomes.** Wisdom is flexible and fluid. Trust and be comfortable with states of not knowing as a prelude to clarity, objectivity, discernment and detachment.

THE ART OF GATHERING BY PRIYA PARKER

The best gatherings create boundaries and a variety of permission slips. They get people to show parts of themselves to each other with fresh eyes, the same way a stranger would look at you. They create an ability for people to show themselves to each other and show themselves the parts that are still being baked.

Gatherings really take off when there’s some invisible structure, but there’s also an organic life to it. You start to cede your power to guests, but they’re still operating within a context that you’ve laid out for them that they agreed to.

When we fall into a specific format where we know how to behave, we go on autopilot. If nothing else, create a gathering in some part of your work or life that is unexpected in some way because when people are invited into something that they don’t know exactly what’s going on, they don’t fall into roles or scripts.

HOW TO HAVE TRANSFORMATIVE GATHERINGS, A CONVERSATION WITH PRIYA PARKER ON HURRY SLOWLY HOSTED BY JOCELYN K. GLEI

Insights –
- The importance of having a specific, disputable purpose for your gathering
- The role of “generous authority” & how a good host protects her guests
- Why the best gatherings give people permission to express themselves in new ways
- How to set boundaries that will enliven guests and enrich your gathering
- The difference between good vulnerability and bad vulnerability
- When you’re inviting guests, remember: “your who is your what”

WHEN STRANGERS MEET: HOW PEOPLE YOU DON'T KNOW CAN TRANSFORM YOU BY KIO STARK EXCERPTED FROM WHY YOU SHOULD TALK TO STRANGERS, TED 2016

Researchers have found that people often feel more comfortable being honest and open about their inner selves with strangers than they do with their friends and their families – that they often feel more understood by strangers. So how is it possible that we communicate so well with strangers? There are two reasons. The first one is that it’s a quick interaction. It has no consequences. It’s easy to be honest with someone you’re never going to see again, right? That makes sense.

The second reason is where it gets more interesting. We have a bias when it comes to people we’re close to. We expect them to understand us. We assume they do, and we expect them to read our minds. So imagine you’re at a party, and you can’t believe that your friend or your spouse isn’t picking up on it that you want to leave early. And you’re thinking, “I gave you the look.”

With a stranger, we have to start from scratch. We tell the whole story, we explain who the people are, how we feel about them; we spell out all the inside jokes. And guess what? Sometimes they do understand us a little better.