

Hineni — Here I Am

*T*wice did Abraham answer, “*Hineni — Here I am.*”

The first time

In response to the imperative he thought Elohim (God) had commanded: “Take your son and offer him as a burnt offering.”
Abraham answered, “*Hineni — Here I am.*”

The second time

Abraham heard the voice of an angel of Adonai (Lord). Abraham answered, “*Hineni — Here I am.*”
This time, the voice of the angel cried,
“Do not raise your hand against the boy, or do anything to harm him.”



Two contradictory voices from Heaven. Which to follow?

Abraham chose the voice of compassion over the voice of blind obedience
He chose the still, small voice of conscience
Over the other.

Abraham’s choice changed the world
He taught great universal truth that became ours, of our faith
God creates. Life is sacred
Life must be saved
Remove the human sacrifice from the altar.

Unbind the ropes that bind the trembling hands together
Whenever the voice of the hunted, the persecuted Screams “*Rape, Plunder, Cruelty, Genocide*”
Our response must be Abraham’s.

Hineni — here I am.

We, who have inherited that tradition
Answer today, here, now, together — *We are here.*