



SHALOM HARTMAN מכון  
INSTITUTE הרטמן שלום

## Sarah and the Akedah

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*As part of the Hartman Fellowship for Emerging Jewish Thought Leaders, fellows were given a deceptively simple task: write a short persuasive essay or create a persuasive piece of multimedia that grapples with big Jewish ideas. The fellows proved themselves equal to the challenge and responded with an array of remarkable and powerful projects on a vast array of subjects, representing a wide array of political positions. We have highlighted a number of the pieces which showed particular originality or writing and production excellence below.*

## **Sarah and the Akedah**

You say you want to hear it from me  
Cuz you don't understand why I chose to flee  
But if you listen to my story  
I can promise and guarantee  
By the end of it all you will agree

Ya see

It started out like any other night  
We went to bed as the moon shown bright  
But when I woke up something didn't feel right  
Isaac was up before daylight  
And he was filled with glee and delight  
Abraham was going on a journey and he finally gave Isaac an invite And  
despite the fact that I should trust him above anybody  
When I heard him call out to G-d "הינני"  
I couldn't help but see  
All that we would be  
If Abraham trusted me  
Like he trusts G-d almighty

So I followed them even though I wasn't an invitee  
And I hid in the bushes and stood behind every tree  
So I could oversee  
What Abraham was doing with my baby  
And that's when I noticed something kind of queer  
Abraham had wood for an altar but no sacrifice anywhere near No sheep  
no lamb not even a dear

And when I saw Isaac start to speak I moved close enough to hear He  
too had noticed that an offering was yet to appear  
And Abraham spoke saying all would be clear  
And in my bones, I felt the chilly touch of fear

Three days we walked before they came to the spot  
Where Abraham built his altar flat like a tabletop  
And then he did something that made my jaw drop  
He tied up our son and placed him on top  
I could feel my heart stop, and my eyes flew wide  
My feet came out from under me and fell down the hillside  
And I couldn't stop the tears flowing no matter how hard I tried And I  
cried and I cried till my eyes were dried

Why didn't I listen to that doubt inside  
Why couldn't I tell when my husband lied  
I always knew that G-d would override  
But why don't I get any say in what they decide  
I thought partnership is what parenthood implied  
A family is supposed to be unified  
But apparently women aren't qualified  
And I am mortified  
How will I be able to go back to his side  
Now that I know he's the reason my son almost died

And is it my fault since I didn't stop it  
Since I let my husband so blindly commit  
whatever G-d's will he would always submit  
He never recognized when it was a test of his wit

G-d wanted him to prove he was fit  
But this was more than I could permit

And if you really think about it  
Why would G-d make him sacrifice our son  
His gift to us when we had none  
It's hard for me to understand  
I have no idea what G-d had planned  
But what I needed was for Abraham to say no  
To prove that he's not just some puppet in a show  
If G-d wanted Isaac dead he would have done it long ago And  
maybe Abraham didn't really need to go  
Maybe that's what G-d hoped he would know

And that's how it hit me, hard like a torpedo  
We are made in the image of G-d, He's in our blood flow But we  
don't have to stick to His status quo  
We have the ability to run or tiptoe  
We can say yes but we can also veto  
So ... essentially we can act by our own free will  
And G-d wouldn't have given us the ability to exercise our skill If he  
didn't trust us to use it with goodwill  
And yes sometimes people are evil and kill  
And don't do things for good but for the high or the thrill

But still ... we have the option to choose  
And that's a privilege we can never lose

