



JUDAISM VALUES: Being Present *Hineni*

We live up to our potential when we answer the call to serve with a willingness to be “present” and when we are concerned with people’s need for personal growth, human comfort and human interaction.

Vayomer: “Moshe, Moshe.” Vayomer: “Hineni!” God called to Moses, and he responded with “I am present and ready to serve!”
—Exodus 3:4

In Exodus and Deuteronomy, the Torah asks us to be vigilant towards the needs of others. “*Lo tuchal lehitaleim.* You must not remain indifferent!”
—Deuteronomy 22:3





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Application:

Being there for people could include the practice of *bikur cholim* (visiting the sick) and *nichum avaylim* (comforting the mourner). Being present to respond to a need is a divine attribute; we must transcend human tendencies of hiding our eyes and being indifferent and instead step up and rise to the occasion with action (One example is Queen Esther, whose story is told in the Book of Esther).

Discussion:

We know that, when visited, the sick thrive and those that grieve find comfort. **How can you set aside time to visit those in need of comfort and support?**

