I HAVE SET YOU IN GOD'S STEAD*

וַיֹּאמֶר יה אֶל־מֹשֶׁה

רְאֵה נְתַתִּיךָ אֱלֹהִים לְפַרְעֹה

וְאַהֲרֹן אָחִיךָ

יִהְיֶה נְבִיאֶךָ׃

And the Lord said to Moses:
See, I have set you in God's stead to Pharaoh;
and Aaron your brother
shall be your prophet.

And the Lord said to Moses—The prophet's demurring (in the previous verse—that the children of Israel had not listened to him, so why should Pharaoh), was not to be credited; B'nai Yisrael had failed to respond because of מִקֹּצֶר רוּחַ (shortness of spirit, resulting from their slavery), but it would be Adonai who would choreograph Pharaoh's response. *See, I have set you in God's stead to Pharaoh*—When you are acting against the oppression and injustice imposed by unaccountable rulers, and you are acting in My image, you shall rebuke them and have all the divine power I have given you to revoke the effects of their decrees on the people. *And Aaron your brother shall be your prophet*—I am the power in all speech, but no facile tongue is needed to satisfy My name, only your righteous action.

* Exodus 7:1 (in Vaera)

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