

I Am an Ambitious Woman

A poem by Alison Hughes written while studying leadership with Ronnie Heifetz at Harvard University Kennedy School of Government and read during graduation day in 1985.

I am an ambitious woman
I have a strong will to succeed I am not ambitious for power Or for wealth
I am ambitious for success

I am an ambitious woman
I am determined to achieve
The possible
And the impossible
I will stand up for what I believe In the name of justice

I am an ambitious woman
I take seriously the work begun on America I hold dear the truth
Declared self evident
That all men are created equal, but

I am an ambitious woman
I aspire to complete the work on America To write its song unsung
Its symphony as yet undone

I am an ambitious woman
An immigrant among immigrants I aspire to make America perfect To contribute to the balance Now in the hands of men
To add the force of women
To the country's journey
Into the future.

I am an ambitious woman
I am ambitious for my self
I am ambitious for my sisters
I am ambitious for my brothers I am ambitious for my country I am ambitious for the world

I want to use my ambition To work for a world
Of tomorrow
That is better
Than the world of today.

(c. 1985 Alison Hughes)