

# המוסד למען קדושת חיי אדם



## **TORAH READING:**

Shemot: Exodus 1:1 - 6:1

Tevet 21, 5776

January 2, 2016

In this week's Torah portion Shemot: Exodus 1:1 - 6:1, Pharaoh enslaves the Jews, and tries his best to contain and diminish their numbers. His strategy includes working them to death, prohibiting the men to sleep in their homes, ordering the Jewish midwives to kill all newborn Jewish male babies, and to assimilate all Jewish females into the pagan Egyptian culture.

The strategy failed. For the most part, the men were strong, their wives visited them in the fields, the Jewish midwives saved the male babies from death and Jewish mothers protected the females from assimilation. The nation of Israel survived the Egyptian exile because enough Jews rejected the pressure to commit demographic and spiritual suicide.

The Jewish nation is in serious exile. Still. Around the globe, many of us have caved to the secular, political, societal, and familial pressure to commit demographic and spiritual suicide through the use of child sacrifice and assimilation. Personal redemption and freedom from individual enslavement to self will and public opinion are just a breathe away, accomplished through a sincere desire to seek the presence of G-d in our minds and hearts, and live a life guided by healing acts of kindness, goodness, forgiveness, truth, faith, and restitution.