

*Commentaries*

**Rashi, Shemot 1:15**

**Shifra**—This is Yocheved (Jocheved) because she (*meshaperet*) would put the newborn in proper physical condition.



**Puah**—This is Miriam because she (*puah*) would make loud noises and speak and articulate to the newborn as do women who pacify a child that is crying.

**רש"י על שמות פרק א פסוק טו**

**שפירה** - זו יוכבד ע"ש שמשפרת את הולד :

**פועה** - זו מרים על שם שפועה ומדברת והוגה לולד כדרך הנשים המפייסות תינוק הבוכה (שם) פועה לשון צעקה כמו (ישעי' מב) כילודה אפעה :

**Shemot Rabba 1:13**

**"To the Jewish midwives"** (Shemot 1:15)—this was to Yocheved and Miriam.

Miriam was only five years old at this time, since Aharon was three years older than Moshe, and she would accompany Yocheved to help her.

**"The name of the second (midwife) was Puah"**—

Since she would pacify the baby with wine;  
 Since she would (*mapiya*) revive the baby (make his face shine) when they said it was dead (commentaries—by praying, talking to them, or through medicines);  
 Since she would (*hofiya*) make Israel shine to G-d (commentaries--by teaching them, through her prophecies);  
 Since she (*hofiya*) revealed her face brazenly against Pharaoh saying, "Woe to this man, when G-d will come to punish him!" Pharaoh then became so angry with her that he wanted to have her killed. But her mother appeased him and said, "Are you paying attention to her? She is but a child and doesn't understand anything."

### Rashi Shemot 1:16

***If it is a son***—He was particular only in regard to the male children because his astrologers told him that a son was to be born who would liberate them.

### רש"י על שמות פרק א פסוק טז

**אם בן הוא וגו'** - לא היה מקפיד אלא על הזכרים שאמרו לו אצטגנינו שעתיד להוולד בן המושיע אותם :

### Rashi Shemot 1:17

***They made the children live***—They provided water and food for them.

### רש"י על שמות פרק א פסוק יז

**ותחיין את הילדים** - מספקות להם מים ומזון (סוטה שם) :

### Rashi Shemot 1:21

***He made them houses***—Houses of Kehuna (Priesthood) and Leviya (Levites) and royalty--which are referred to as houses (dynasties). Kehuna and Leviya for Yocheved; royalty for Miriam (King David).

### רש"י על שמות פרק א פסוק כא

**ויעש להם בתים** - בתי כהונה ולויה ומלכות שקרויין בתים. ויבן את בית ה' ואת בית המלך. כהונה ולויה מיוכבד. ומלכות ממרים כדאיתא במס' סוטה (שם) :

*Alternate explanation*—**Rashbam:**

Pharaoh provided them with houses. He placed them under house arrest.

## Rashi Shemot 1:22

**To his whole nation**—Also upon them (the Egyptians) he issued the decree. On the day that Moshe was born, his (Pharaoh's) astrologers told him, "Today their savior was born, but we do not know whether he is from the Egyptians or from the Jews, but we foresee that he is destined to be smitten through water." Therefore, on that day, Pharaoh decreed also regarding the Egyptians as it said, "Every son that will be born," and it does not say, "That will be born to the Hebrews." The astrologers did not know, however, that Moshe was destined to be smitten by the waters of Meriva.

## רש"י על שמות פרק א פסוק כב

לכל עמו - אף עליהם גזר יום שנולד  
משה אמרו לו אצטגניניו היום נולד  
מושיען ואין אנו יודעין אם ממצרים אם  
מישראל ורואין אנו שסופו ללקות במים  
לפיכך גזר אותו היום אף על המצרים  
שנא' כל הבן הילוד ולא נאמר הילוד  
לעברים והם לא היו יודעים שסופו  
ללקות על מי מריבה :