

# Being Wounded

**BY RABBI DAVID WOLPE**

Moses was born into trouble, placed in a basket to save his life. Pharoah's daughter 'beholds' the child crying; noting that she saw and did not hear him crying the Rabbis conclude that the baby cried silently. Moses learned early what it was to fight, to have to hide, to be scarred by the world.

In *Ah, But Your Land is Beautiful* South African writer Alan Paton tells of a man who died and came before God. "Where are your wounds?" asks God. "I have none" said the man. "Why?" responds God, "was there nothing worth fighting for?"

Early on Moses realizes how much there is to fight for — for God's word, for the people, for freedom, for the passion he bears to lead Israel from Egypt. The Torah takes care to let us know that this prophet was afflicted from his first moments, but instead of making him narrow, his pain gave him purpose and a thirst for what was good. "In love's service" wrote Thornton Wilder, "only the wounded soldier may serve." Moses was a wounded soldier for God's service and all of history changed.