CHARLIE IS A JEWISH NAME
Rabbi Dan Moskovitz – January 9, 2015

1. *Aleh Sh'mot B'nai Ysirael /* These are the names of the sons of Israel, who came into Egypt with Jacob; every man came with his household:
    a. Reuben, Simeon, Levi and Judah
    b. Issachar, Zebulun and Bejamin
    c. Dan, Naphtali, Gad and Asher
    d. And Charlie
2. It has often been said that the Jews' situation in any given country is a reliable barometer of the level of democracy and human rights there.
    a. One can draw a clear line from freedom and safety of Jews to freedom of the press.
    b. European Jews may be attacked because of anti-Semitism and warped thinking that links them to the Israel-Palestine conflict
    c. Charlie Hebdo's journalists were slaughtered because they refused to be cowed and continued to publish cartoons ridiculing Mohammed, as they ridicule the "holy" men of other religions, including Judaism.
        i. But above all they have been killed because they embody Western enlightenment, freedom and tolerance.
3. The attack on Jews in France and throughout the EU and the bloodshed at Charlie Hebdo, the hostage taking in the Australian Café and so many more is a struggle between those who continue to believe in the values of the West and those who find these freedoms to be abhorrent.
    a. Its as simple and a binary as that.

4. *Vayakam Melech hadash al-mitzrayim asher lo yadah et Yoseph* / And a new king arose over Egypt who did not know Joseph
    a. Who did not know Charlie
5. The Pharoah in France and around the world today, the new power that has arisen and forgotten history is the culture of silence in the face of radicalism. The blind politically correct tolerance and support of the systematic dismantling of western society and values.
    a. Not only by the perpetrators, the terrorists who attack soft targets
    b. But also those with soft hearts who do nothing, say nothing – who blame the victim
        i. The Jew for wearing a kippah
        ii. The Israeli for defending their nation
        iii. A magazine for printing an offensive cartoon.
        iv. Western Powers for invading Arab countries
            1. As though if we only
                a. hid our kippah
                b. Burned out magazines
                c. And let them attack us before we attacked them
                    i. It would all be ok.
    c. Has the world forgot Joseph, has the world forgot history? Will it remember Charlie?
    d. The haunting words of Martin Niemöller come to mind:

i. First they came for the Socialists, and I did not speak out—
ii. Because I was not a Socialist.

iii. Then they came for the Trade Unionists, and I did not speak out—
iv. Because I was not a Trade Unionist.

v. Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out—
vi. Because I was not a Jew.

vii. Then they came for me—and there was no one left to speak for me.

e. We are at the end of the list, not we as Jews they came for us long ago, but western values, culture and society. All of us. They are here, they are knocking on the door with Kalashnikovs and suicide bombs.

6. The sermon could end there, Exodus could have ended there. Pharoah rises up and destroys the Israelite nation. End of story.
    a. But it doesn't end there.
    b. Before Moses, before the plagues, the pillar of fire, the miracles and wonders.
7. *Yavomer melech mitzrayim l'amyadot haevri* / The king spoke to the Hebrew midwives, Sifrah and Puah.
    a. Why haven't you done what I told you? Why haven't you killed the Hebrew newborn children?
    b. The text continues:
        i. But the midwives feared God, and not the king of Egypt. They didn't

waiver from doing what was right, even with great fear. They saved the newborn children.

c. They remembered Joseph and rejected radicalism, barbarism, terror and evil.

8. **Who will be the midwives, who will stand up in word and in deed? Who will remember Joseph?**
    a. **Charlie?**
9. It must stop here - we cannot wait for Moses and Miracles. We must be the midwives, and save the future of all we hold dear.
10. This is no longer just about us, its about all of THIS (everything around us).
11. A single family went down to Egypt, and a great nation came out of the tumult and struggle there.
    a. Pharoah is no more, and we are still here
    b. I wouldn't have it any other way.