

PARSHAT TAZRIA-METZORA
LEVITICUS 12:51-15:33
HAFTARAH ISAIAH 66:1-24
29 NISAN 5783/20 APRIL 2023



Hope II

Oil, gold and platinum on canvass by Gustav Klimt (1907)

AT THE THRESHOLD

1. Here birth, death, and the sensuality of the living exist side by side, suspended in equilibrium. (*MoMA Highlights*, 2019)
2. There is always hope, as long as the canvasses are empty. (Gustav Klimt)
3. אִשָּׁה כִּי תִזְרֶיעַ (Leviticus 12:2)
When a woman bears seed...
זָרַע – to sow, scatter seed; produce seed; bear a child

“Let the earth sprout vegetation: seed-bearing plants (זָרַע מִזְרִיעַ זָרַע), fruit trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it (זָרַעוּ-בּוֹ). (Genesis 1:11)

4. According to [Mary] Douglas, Leviticus designates as sources of impurity not things that are *morally* sullied but things that by their very nature are unbounded and cannot be hemmed in....Leviticus prohibits in order to protect. The new mother is barred from entry to the Temple because the boundary-breaking experience of childbirth cannot translate neatly into a covenantal Temple framework...Childbirth is a process in which pleasure and pain, life and death, purity and impurity, are intermingled and become inextricable from each other. (Sarah Rindner, *Mosaic Magazine* 04/27/2017)