

ברוך אתה יהוה  
אלהינו מלך העולם  
אשר קדשנו במצוותיו  
וצונו לעסוק  
בדברי תורה.

Barukh Atah Adonai  
Eloheinu melekh ha-olam  
asher kidshanu b'mitzvotav  
v'tzivanu la'asok  
b'divrei Torah.

Blessed are You, YHVH,  
our God, eternal sovereign, who  
sanctifies us in God's connecting  
command to busy ourselves  
in words of Torah.

**Genesis 37:2-11**

יוסף בן-שבע-עשרה שנה היה רעה את-  
אחיו בצאן והוא נער את-בני בלהה ואת-  
בני זלפה נשי אביו ויבא יוסף את-דבתם  
רעה אל-אביהם: וישראל אהב את-יוסף  
מכל-בניו כי-בן-זקנים הוא לו ועשה לו  
כתנת פסים: ויראו אחיו כי-אתו אהב  
אביהם מכל-אחיו וישנאו אותו ולא יכלו  
דברו לשלם:

2-4. Joseph was 17 years old, feeding the flock with his brothers. The lad was with the sons of Bilhah and Zilpah, his father's wives. Joseph brought his father bad reports about them. Of all his children, Israel loved Joseph most, for he was the son of his old age; and made him a fine coat. His brothers saw that their father loved him more than [them], and they hated him and could not speak well to him.

Pattern of sibling issues began just after Eden

ויחלם יוסף חלום ויגד לאחיו ויוספו עוד שנה אתו: ויאמר אליהם שמעו-נא החלום הזה אשר חלמתי: והנה אנחנו מאלמים אלמים בתוך השדה והנה קמה אלמתי וגם-נצבה והנה תסבינה אלמתיכם ותשתחוין לאלמתי:

5-7. Joseph dreamed a dream. He told it to his brothers and they hated him more. He said to them, "Please hear this dream I dreamed. Wow, we were binding sheaves in the field when, wow, my sheaf rose stood upright – and woah! Your sheaves stood and bowed to mine."

and now comes to a head

Prophetic dream(?!)

ויאמרו לו אחיו המלך תמלך עלינו אם-משול תמשל בנו ויוספו עוד שנה אתו על-חלמתי ועל-דברי: ויחלם עוד חלום אחר ויספר אתו לאחיו ויאמר הנה חלמתי חלום עוד והנה השמש והירח ואחד עשר כוכבים משתחוים לי:

8-9. His brothers said to him, "Would you really reign over us, to dominate us?" They hated him even more for his dreams, and for his words. He dreamed another dream and told his brothers, saying, "Hey! **Again I dreamed another dream:** the sun, moon and 11 stars bowed to me."

repetitive text mirrors what Torah is doing

where'd Dinah go here?

Prophetic dream?!

ויספר אל-אביו ואל-אחיו ויגער-בו אביו ויאמר לו מה החלום הזה אשר חלמתי הבוא נבוא אני ואמך ואחידך להשתחוות לך ארצה: ויקנאו-בו אחיו ואביו שמר את-הדבר:

10-11. He told his father and his brothers. His father rebuked him, saying to him, "What is this dream that you dreamed? I and your mother and your brothers should come to bow to the ground for you. **His brothers envied him, and his father kept the matter in mind.**

Jacob "forgot" what he knew? ... and then remembered?

Start of a suspense story on which all of Israelite and Jewish history depends.

|          |                       |  |  |
|----------|-----------------------|--|--|
| <u>P</u> | <b>Pshat</b><br>(פשט) | <b>Literal</b><br>(surface • plain)    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Elder will serve the younger(?)</li> <li>Joseph didn't give the interpretation – *they* did.</li> </ul>                         |
| <u>R</u> | <b>Remez</b><br>(רמז) | <b>Implication</b><br>(pointer • hint) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dream that was prophetic; emotions around it?</li> <li>Joseph oblivious to his / his dreams' impact on others.</li> </ul>       |
| <u>D</u> | <b>Drash</b><br>(דרש) | <b>Description</b><br>(inquire)        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Joseph taunting his brothers because he's the fave.</li> <li>Narcissist Joseph? Immature Joseph? Resentful brothers?</li> </ul> |
| <u>S</u> | <b>Sod</b><br>(סוד)   | <b>Mystical</b><br>(secret)            | <p>WHERE'D GOD GO?!<br/>What is the nature of faith?</p>   |

**Genesis 37:12-28**

Structure:  
watery,  
confusing

וַיֵּלְכוּ אָחִיו לְרֵעוֹת אֶת-צֹאן אֲבִיהֶם  
בְּשֶׁכֶם: וַיֹּאמֶר יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶל-יוֹסֵף הֲלוֹא  
אֶחִיד רְעִים בְּשֶׁכֶם לָכֵה וְאֶשְׁלַחְךָ אֵלֵיהֶם  
וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹ הֲנִי: וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹ לֵךְ-נָא רֹאֵה  
אֶת-שְׁלוֹם אֶחִיד וְאֶת-שְׁלוֹם הַצֹּאן וְהַשְּׂבִי  
דָּבָר וַיִּשְׁלַחְהוּ מֵעֵמֶק חֶבְרוֹן וַיָּבֹא שְׂכֵמָה:

midrash: the guys  
were goodfor nothings

וַיִּמְצְאוּהוּ אִישׁ וְהָיָה תֵּעָה בְּשָׂדֵה וַיִּשְׁאַלְהוּ  
הָאִישׁ לֵאמֹר מַה-תִּבְקֹשׁ: וַיֹּאמֶר אֶת-אָחִי  
אֲנִי מִבְּקֹשׁ הַגִּידָה-נָא לִי אִיפֹה הֵם רְעִים:  
וַיֹּאמֶר הָאִישׁ נָסְעוּ מִזֶּה כִּי שָׁמַעְתִּי אֲמָרִים  
נִלְכָה דֹתָיִנָה וַיֵּלֶךְ יוֹסֵף אַחֵר אָחִיו וַיִּמְצָאֵם  
בְּדוֹתָן:

וַיֵּרְאוּ אֹתוֹ מֵרְחֹק וּבְטָרִם יִקְרַב אֵלֵיהֶם  
וַיִּתְנַכְּלוּ אֹתוֹ לְהַמִּיתוֹ: וַיֹּאמְרוּ אִישׁ-אֶל-  
אָחִיו הִנֵּה בַעַל הַחֲלָמוֹת הֲלֹזָה בָּא: וְעַתָּה  
לָכּוּ וְנַהַרְגֵהוּ וְנִשְׁלַחְהוּ בְּאֶחָד הַבְּרוֹת  
וְאֲמַרְנוּ חַיָּה רָעָה אֲכָלְתָהוּ וְנִרְאָה מִה-יָהִי  
חֲלֹמֵתָיו:

וַיִּשְׁמַע רְאוּבֵן וַיִּצְלַחְהוּ מִיָּדָם וַיֹּאמֶר לֹא  
נִכְנְוּ נַפְשׁ: וַיֹּאמֶר אֲלֵיהֶם רְאוּבֵן אֶל-תִּשְׁפְּכוּ  
דָּם הַשְּׁלִיכוּ אֹתוֹ אֶל-הַבּוֹר הַזֶּה אֲשֶׁר  
בְּמִדְבַר וְיָד אֶל-תִּשְׁלַחוּ-בּוֹ לְמַעַן הַצִּיל  
אֹתוֹ מִיָּדָם לְהַשִּׁיבּוֹ אֶל-אָבִיו: וַיְהִי כַּאֲשֶׁר-  
בָּא יוֹסֵף אֶל-אָחִיו וַיִּפְּשִׁטוּ אֶת-יוֹסֵף  
אֶת-כְּתֹנֶתוֹ אֶת-כְּתֹנֶת הַפָּסִים אֲשֶׁר עָלָיו:

וַיִּקְחֵהוּ וַיִּשְׁלַכוּ אֹתוֹ הַבְּרָה וְהַבּוֹר רַק אֵין  
בּוֹ מַיִם: וַיִּשְׁבּוּ לְאָכָל-לֶחֶם וַיִּשְׂאוּ עֵינֵיהֶם  
וַיֵּרְאוּ וְהָיָה אַרְחַת יִשְׁמַעְאֵלִים בָּאָה  
מִגִּלְעָד וּגְמִלְיָהֶם נִשְׂאִים נֹכַח וַיִּצְרִי וְלֹט  
הוֹלְכִים לְהוֹרִיד מִצְרַיִמָּה: וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוּדָה  
אֶל-אָחִיו מַה-בָּצַע כִּי נִהַרְגְתֶּם אֶת-אָחִינוּ  
וְכִסִּינוּ אֶת-דָּמוֹ:

לָכּוּ וְנִמְכְּרוּנוּ לִישְׁמַעְאֵלִים וַיִּדְנוּ אֶל-תְּהִי-  
בּוֹ כִּי-אָחִינוּ בְּשָׂרֵנוּ הוּא וַיִּשְׁמְעוּ אָחִיו:  
וַיַּעֲבְרוּ אַנְשִׁים מִדְּיָנִים סַחְרִים וַיִּמְשְׁכוּ  
וַיַּעֲלוּ אֶת-יוֹסֵף מִן-הַבּוֹר וַיִּמְכְּרוּ אֶת-יוֹסֵף  
לִישְׁמַעְאֵלִים בְּעֶשְׂרִים כֶּסֶף וַיָּבִיאוּ  
אֶת-יוֹסֵף מִצְרַיִמָּה:

12-14. His brothers went to pasture their fathers' flock in Shekhem. Israel said to Joseph, "Aren't your brothers pasturing in Shekhem? Go: I send you to them." He said to him, "Here I am." He said to him, "Please go see after the welfare of your brothers and the welfare of the flocks, and bring me word again." So he sent him from the Hebron valley and he came to Shekhem.

15-17. A man found him wandering in the field. The man asked him: "What do you seek?" He said, "I seek my brothers. Please tell me where they are pasturing." The man said, "They left, as I heard them say, 'Let's go to Dothan.'" Joseph went after his brothers and found them in Dothan.

18-20. When they saw him from far away, before he neared them, they conspired against him to kill him. They said one to another, "Hey, here comes this dreamer. Now let's slay him, throw him into a pit and we'll say that an evil beast ate him – and we'll see what becomes of his dreams.

21-23. **Reuven** heard it and saved him from their hands. He said, "Do not strike him." To save him from their hands and return him to their father, Reuven said, "Do not shed blood. Throw him into this pit in the desert – don't lay a hand on him." When Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped Joseph of his coat, his fine coat on him.'

24-26. They took him and threw him into a pit: the **pit was empty, without water**. They sat to eat bread. They lifted their eyes and looked: a group of Ishmaelites from Gil'ad passed through on camels carrying gum, balm and myrrh down to Egypt. Judah said to his brothers, "What profit is it if we slay our brother, and conceal his blood?"

27-28. "Let's sell him to Ishmaelites and not put our hand on him, for he is our brother and our flesh." The brothers listened.... They drew Joseph up, raised him from the pit and sold Joseph to the Ishmaelites for 20 pieces of silver. They brought him down to Egypt.

Abraham  
Jacob  
Moses

- deployment
- from God?

Hostage taking = 2023...

repeating trope

**IT'S A JAIL.**

**3 generations up**

|          |                       |   |   |
|----------|-----------------------|---|---|
| <b>P</b> | <b>Pshat</b><br>(פשט) | <b>Literal</b><br>( <i>surface • plain</i> )    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joseph's 'jail'</li> <li>•</li> </ul>  |
| <b>R</b> | <b>Remez</b><br>(רמז) | <b>Implication</b><br>( <i>pointer • hint</i> ) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reuven saved life, but also 'violent'</li> </ul>   |
| <b>D</b> | <b>Drash</b><br>(דרש) | <b>Description</b><br>( <i>inquire</i> )        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hineni = Abraham AND Jacob AND Joseph and MOSES</li> <li>• Brothers far over-reacted: threatened?</li> </ul> |
| <b>S</b> | <b>Sod</b><br>(סוד)   | <b>Mystical</b><br>( <i>secret</i> )            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jail - dry, godless (shekhinah = water, flowing)</li> </ul>  |

## Genesis 39:1-20

descent  
down  
down  
down

וְיוֹסֵף הוֹרֵד מִצְרַיִם וַיִּקְנֶהוּ פוֹטִיפָר  
סָרִיס פְּרָעָה שֶׁר הַטְּבָחִים אִישׁ מִצְרֵי מִיַּד  
הַיִּשְׁמְעֵאלִים אֲשֶׁר הוֹרְדָהוּ שָׁמָּה: וַיְהִי  
יְהוָה אִתּוֹ-יוֹסֵף וַיְהִי אִישׁ מְצַלִּיחַ וַיְהִי בְּבֵית  
אֲדֹנָיו הַמִּצְרָיִ: וַיֵּרָא אֲדֹנָיו כִּי יְהוָה אִתּוֹ  
וְכָל אֲשֶׁר-הוּא עֹשֶׂה יְהוָה מְצַלִּיחַ בְּיָדוֹ:

וַיִּמְצָא יוֹסֵף חֵן בְּעֵינָיו וַיִּשְׂרֵת אֹתוֹ וַיִּפְקְדֵהוּ  
עַל-בֵּיתוֹ וְכָל-יֶשׁ-לוֹ נָתַן בְּיָדוֹ: וַיְהִי מֵאָז  
הִפְקִיד אֹתוֹ בְּבֵיתוֹ וְעַל כָּל-אֲשֶׁר יֶשׁ-לוֹ  
וַיִּבְרָךְ יְהוָה אֶת-בֵּית הַמִּצְרָיִ בְּגַלְל יוֹסֵף  
וַיְהִי בְרֶכֶת יְהוָה בְּכָל-אֲשֶׁר יֶשׁ-לוֹ בְּבֵית  
וּבְשָׂדֵה: וַיַּעֲזֹב כָּל-אֲשֶׁר-לוֹ בְּיַד-יוֹסֵף וְלֹא-  
יָדַע אֹתוֹ מֵאוֹמָה כִּי אִם-הִלְחִם אֲשֶׁר-הוּא  
אוֹכֵל וַיְהִי יוֹסֵף יָפֵה-תֹאֵר וַיְפַה מְרָאָה:

וַיְהִי אַחֲרֵי הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה וַתִּשָּׂא אִשְׁתּוֹ-  
אֲדֹנָיו אֶת-עֵינֶיהָ אֶל-יוֹסֵף וַתֹּאמֶר שְׂכָבָה  
עִמִּי: וַיִּמָּאֵן וַיֹּאמֶר אֶל-אִשְׁתּוֹ אֲדֹנָיו הֵן  
אֲדֹנִי לֹא-יָדַע אֹתִי מֵה-בְּבֵית וְכָל אֲשֶׁר-  
יֶשׁ-לוֹ נָתַן בְּיָדִי: אֵינְנִי גָדוֹל בְּבֵית הַזֶּה  
מִמֶּנִּי וְלֹא-חָשַׁף מִמֶּנִּי מֵאוֹמָה כִּי אִם-  
אוֹתָךְ בָּאֲשֶׁר אֶת-אִשְׁתּוֹ וְאִךְ אֶעֱשֶׂה  
הַרְעָה הַגְּדֹלָה הַזֹּאת וְחָטַאתִי לְאֵלֵהִים:

וַיְהִי כַּדְּבָרָה אֶל-יוֹסֵף יוֹם יוֹם וְלֹא-שָׁמַע  
אֵלֶיהָ לְשֹׁכֵב אֲצִלָּה לְהִיּוֹת עִמָּה: וַיְהִי  
כַּהַיּוֹם הַזֶּה וַיָּבֵא הַבַּיִתָּה לְעֹשֹׂת מְלֹאכְתּוֹ  
וְאִין אִישׁ מֵאֲנָשֵׁי הַבַּיִת שָׁם בְּבֵית:  
וַתִּתְּפֹשֶׁהוּ בְּבִגְדוֹ לֵאמֹר שְׂכָבָה עִמִּי וַיַּעֲזֹב  
בְּגָדוֹ בְּיָדָהּ וַיִּנְס וַיֵּצֵא חוּצָה:

וַיְהִי כִּרְאוּתָהּ כִּי-עָזַב בְּגָדוֹ בְּיָדָהּ וַיִּנְס  
חוּצָה: וַתִּקְרָא לְאֲנָשֵׁי בֵיתָהּ וַתֹּאמֶר לָהֶם  
לֵאמֹר רְאוּ הֵבִיא לָנוּ אִישׁ עִבְרִי לְצַחֵק בָּנוּ  
כִּי אֵלֵי לְשֹׁכֵב עִמִּי וְאֶקְרָא בְּקוֹל גָּדוֹל:  
וַיְהִי כִשְׁמָעוֹ כִּי-הִרְיַמְתִּי קוֹלִי וְאֶקְרָא  
וַיַּעֲזֹב בְּגָדוֹ אֲצִלִּי וַיִּנְס וַיֵּצֵא חוּצָה:

וַתִּנַּח בְּגָדוֹ אֲצִלָּה עַד-בּוֹא אֲדֹנָיו אֶל-בֵּיתוֹ:  
וַתְּדַבֵּר אֵלָיו כַּדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה לֵאמֹר כִּי  
אֵלֵי הֶעֱבַד הָעִבְרִי אֲשֶׁר-הֵבֵאתָ לָנוּ לְצַחֵק  
בִּי: וַיְהִי כַּהִרְיַמִּי קוֹלִי וְאֶקְרָא וַיַּעֲזֹב בְּגָדוֹ  
אֲצִלִּי וַיִּנְס חוּצָה:

וַיְהִי כִשְׁמָע אֲדֹנָיו אֶת-דְּבָרֵי אִשְׁתּוֹ אֲשֶׁר  
דְּבָרָה אֵלָיו לֵאמֹר כַּדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה עָשָׂה לִּי  
עֲבָדְךָ וַיִּחַר אַפּוֹ: וַיִּקַּח אֲדֹנִי יוֹסֵף אֹתוֹ  
וַיִּתְּנֶהוּ אֶל-בֵּית הַסֹּהַר מִקּוֹם אֲשֶׁר-אֲסוּרֵי  
הַמֶּלֶךְ אֲסוּרִים וַיְהִי-שָׁם בְּבֵית הַסֹּהַר....

1-3. Joseph was **descended** to Egypt. Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, Egyptian security minister, bought him from the Ishmaelites who took him down him there. **YHVH was with Joseph**, who prospered in the house of his Egyptian master. His master saw that YHVH was with him, that YHVH made all that he did prosper in his hand.

Hi, God!

4-6. Joseph found grace in his sight and served him. He made him overseer over his house: all that he had, he put into his hand. From the time he made him overseer in his house, and over all that he had, YHVH blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; and the blessing of YHVH was on all he had in the house, and in the field. He left all he had in Joseph's hand; he knew nothing save for the bread he ate. Now, Joseph was handsome and good looking.

Hey, God!

7-9. After these things, his master's wife cast her eyes on Joseph; and she said, "Lie with me." He refused and said to his master's wife, "Hey now. My master does not know what's up with me in the house: he gave all he has to my hand. None is greater than me in his house, and he kept from me nothing but you, for you are his wife. So how can I do this great evil and sin against God?"

10-12. So it came to pass, as she spoke to Joseph day after day, that he did not listen to her to lie with her, or to be with her. There was a time that Joseph went into his house to do his work, and there were no men of the house inside. She grabbed his garment saying, "Lie with me." He fled, left his garment in her hand, and got out.

clothes  
aren't  
making  
the man

13-15. When she saw that he fled leaving his garment in her hand, she called to the men of her house, and spoke saying, "See? He brought us a Hebrew man to mock us. He came into me to lie with me, and I cried with a loud voice. When he heard that I raised my voice and cried, he left his garment with me, and fled outside."

16-18. She laid up with his garment by her until his master came home. She spoke to him by these words, saying, "The Hebrew servant, whom you brought to us, came into me to mock me. I raised my voice and cried out. He left his garment with me, and fled out."

19-20. When his master heard his wife's words that she spoke to him, saying, thus and so did your servant do to me his wrath was kindled. Joseph's master took him and put him in the prison, where the king's own prisoners were confined. And he was there in the prison....