

Short Answer Questions:

1. Why do you think the author and composer decided to call this show JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAM COAT? Why use the words 'Amazing' and 'Technicolor'?
2. Music is used to heighten the emotions and energy in JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAM COAT. Why do you think the composer decided to use such modern styles of music in a story from long ago?
3. Have you ever been envious of one of your siblings OR do you ever feel like your parents have a "favorite" child in your family? Describe WHY and WHAT caused these feelings and how did you handle them?
4. Who was your favorite character in the show? Why?
5. Which scenic effect do you feel was the most effective and really helped give that part of the show a special atmosphere?
6. What made this show entertaining? Can you think of anything that would have made the production more enjoyable?
7. The production is intended to entertain the audience but what message do you think young audience members will come away with from the production?



Follow-the-movie Questions:

Joseph's First 2 Dreams: (Describe and Explain what they mean!)

Joseph sings a song in jail. What is the message of the song and WHY does that make Joseph a role model?

Joseph interprets 2 dreams while he is in jail. What are they?

Joseph interprets Pharaoh's dreams. Explain the meaning of each of them:

Dream about cows:

Dream about corn:

What test does Joseph put his brothers through before he forgives them? Explain it in detail.

Colors of the Dreamcoat:

- red • yellow • green • brown • scarlet • _____ • ochre • peach • _____ • olive • violet • fawn
- lilac • gold • chocolate • cream • crimson • _____ • rose • azure • lemon • russet • grey • purple
- white • _____ • orange • blue

Act I - The story is based on the Biblical story of Joseph, found in the book of Genesis. It is set in a frame in which a narrator is telling a story to children, encouraging them to dream. She then tells the story of Joseph, another dreamer ("Prologue"). In the beginning of the main story Jacob and his 12 sons are introduced ("Jacob and Sons"). Joseph's brothers are jealous of him for his coat, a symbol of their father's preference of him ("Joseph's Coat"). It is clear from Joseph's dreams that he is destined to rule over them ("Joseph's Dreams"). To get rid of him and make the dreams not come true, they sell him as a slave to some passing Ishmaelites ("Poor, Poor Joseph"), who in turn take him to Egypt. Back home, his brothers, accompanied by their wives, break the news to Jacob that Joseph has been killed; they show his tattered coat smeared with his blood – it is really goat blood – as proof that what they say is true ("One More Angel in Heaven"). In most productions, one brother, Reuben, usually sings the solo; the song often segues into a celebratory hoedown after the bereft Jacob has tottered off the stage.

In Egypt, Joseph is the slave of Egyptian millionaire Potiphar. He rises through the ranks of slaves and servants until he is running Potiphar's house. When his master's wife makes advances, Joseph spurns her. Potiphar overhears, barges in, sees the two together – and jumps to conclusions. He jails Joseph ("Potiphar"). Depressed, Joseph sings "Close Every Door" – but his spirits rise when he helps two prisoners put in his cell. Both are former servants of the Pharaoh and both have had bizarre dreams. Joseph interprets them. One cellmate, the Baker, will be executed, but the other, the Butler, will be returned to service ("Go, Go, Go Joseph").

Act II - The Narrator talks about impending changes in Joseph's fortunes ("A Pharaoh Story") because the Pharaoh is having dreams that no one can interpret. Now freed, the Butler tells Pharaoh (acted in the style of Elvis Presley) of Joseph and his dream interpretation skills ("Poor, Poor Pharaoh"). Pharaoh orders Joseph to be brought in and the king tells him his dream involving seven fat cows, seven skinny cows, seven healthy ears of corn, and seven dead ears of corn ("Song of the King"). Joseph interprets the dream as seven plentiful years followed by seven years of famine ("Pharaoh's Dreams Explained"). An astonished Pharaoh puts Joseph in charge of carrying out the preparations needed to endure the impending famine, and Joseph becomes the most powerful man in Egypt, second only to the Pharaoh ("Stone the Crows").

Back home, the famine had caught up with Joseph's brothers, who, led by the brother Simeon, express regret at selling him and deceiving their father ("Those Canaan Days"). They hear Egypt has food and decide to go there to beg for food and mercy, not realizing whom they will be dealing with ("The Brothers Come to Egypt"). Joseph gives them food and sends them on their way, but plants a golden cup into the sack of his brother Benjamin ("Grovel, Grovel"). When the brothers try to leave, Joseph stops them, asking about the "stolen cup." Each brother empties his sack, and it is revealed that Benjamin has the cup. Joseph then accuses Benjamin of robbery ("Who's the Thief?"). The other brothers, though, beg for mercy for Benjamin, imploring that Joseph take them prisoner and set Benjamin free ("Benjamin Calypso"). Seeing their unselfishness and penitence Joseph reveals himself ("Joseph All the Time") and sends for his father. The two are reunited ("Jacob in Egypt") for a happy conclusion. The show ends with two songs ("Finale: Any Dream Will Do (Reprise)/Give Me My Coloured Coat"), and for curtain call in some big productions, a rock/disco medley of most of the musical's major numbers ("Joseph Megamix").

CHARACTERS

- **Narrator:** A woman, not of the time or place of the action, the Narrator tells the story through word and song, guiding the audience gently through the story of Joseph and his brothers.
- **Joseph:** Obviously his father's favorite, Joseph early on shows a talent for interpreting dreams and telling the future. This gets him into trouble with his brothers when he predicts his future will include ruling over the other eleven. However, it saves his life when in Egypt he correctly interprets Pharaoh's dreams. In the end he has risen to a great position of power, but he still forgives his brothers and brings his family to Egypt to partake of the bounty he has accumulated there.
- **Jacob:** The father of the twelve sons, Jacob definitely favors Joseph. At times he may appear unfair and shallow, but he is, more importantly, the prophet who recognizes the future and the calling of Joseph, thus saving the House of Israel.
- **The Brothers: Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Naphtali, Issachar, Asher, Dan, Zebulun, Gad, Benjamin, Judah.** Although acting usually as a group, they have their own different personalities, talents, and flaw. As a group they sell Joseph into slavery, but as individuals they deal with the following years and how they can make amends.
- **Potiphar:** A powerful and rich Egyptian, Potiphar purchases Joseph and puts him to work in his household, where he soon realizes that Joseph is honest, hard-working, and a great addition to his pool of help. When he grows suspicious of his wife and Joseph, however, he grows angry and has Joseph thrown into prison.
- **Mrs. Potiphar:** Beautiful and scheming, Mrs. Potiphar tries to seduce Joseph (unsuccessfully). However, she does manage to rip off much of his clothing just as her husband comes into the room, thus condemning him to prison.
- **Baker:** One of Pharaoh's servants, the Baker is in prison with Joseph who correctly interprets his dreams and predicts that he will be put to death.
- **Butler:** Another of Pharaoh's servants, the Butler is also in prison with Joseph who also correctly interprets his dreams, this time that he will be released and taken back into Pharaoh's household. It is the Butler who tells Pharaoh about Joseph and his uncanny ability with dreams.
- **Pharaoh:** The most powerful man in Egypt, Pharaoh is considered a god on earth. When Joseph interprets his dreams, he promotes him to one of the highest positions in his government.

Chapter 37

1 But Jacob settled in the land where his father had stayed, the land of Canaan.

2 This is the story of Joseph. Joseph was seventeen years old. As he was young, he was shepherding the flock with his brothers, with the sons of his father's wives, Bilhah and Zilpah; and Joseph brought his father bad reports about them.

3 Jacob loved Joseph more than all his other sons, for he was the son of his old age, and he had a decorated tunic made for him.

4 But his brothers, seeing how much more his father loved him than all his other sons, came to hate him so much that they could not say a civil word to him.

5 Now Joseph had a dream, and he repeated it to his brothers, who then hated him more than ever.

6 'Listen', he said, 'to the dream I had.

7 We were binding sheaves in the field, when my sheaf suddenly rose and stood upright, and then your sheaves gathered round and bowed to my sheaf.'

8 'So you want to be king over us,' his brothers retorted, 'you want to lord it over us?' And they hated him even more, on account of his dreams and of what he said.

9 He had another dream which he recounted to his brothers. 'Look, I have had another dream,' he said. 'There were the sun, the moon and eleven stars, bowing down to me.'

10 He told his father and brothers, and his father scolded him. 'A fine dream to have!' he said to him. 'Are all of us then, myself, your mother and your brothers, to come and bow to the ground before you?'

11 His brothers held it against him, but his father pondered the matter.

12 His brothers went to pasture their father's flock at Shechem.

13 Then Israel said to Joseph, 'Your brothers are with the flock at Shechem, aren't they? Come, I am going to send you to them.' 'I am ready,' he replied.

14 He said to him, 'Go and see how your brothers and the flock are doing, and bring me word.' He sent him from the valley of Hebron, and Joseph arrived at Shechem.

15 A man found him wandering in the countryside and asked him, 'What are you looking for?'

16 'I am looking for my brothers,' he replied. 'Please tell me where they are pasturing their flock.'

17 The man answered, 'They have moved on from here; indeed I heard them say, "Let us go to Dothan."' So Joseph went after his brothers and found them at Dothan.

18 They saw him in the distance, and before he reached them they made a plot to kill him.

19 'Here comes that dreamer,' they said to one another.

20 'Come on, let us kill him now and throw him down one of the storage-wells; we can say that some wild animal has devoured him. Then we shall see what becomes of his dreams.'

21 But Reuben heard, and he saved him from their clutches. 'We must not take his life,' he said.

22 'Shed no blood,' said Reuben to them, 'throw him down that well out in the desert, but do not kill him yourselves' -- intending to save him from them and to restore him to his father.

23 So, when Joseph reached his brothers, they pulled off his tunic, the decorated tunic which he was wearing, 24 and catching hold of him, threw him into the well. The well was empty, with no water in it.

25 They then sat down to eat. Looking up, they saw a group of Ishmaelites who were coming from Gilead, their camels laden with gum tragacanth, balsam and resin, which they were taking to Egypt.

26 Then Judah said to his brothers, 'What do we gain by killing our brother and covering up his blood?

27 Come, let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, then we shall not have laid hands on him ourselves. After all, he is our brother, and our own flesh.' His brothers agreed.

28 Now some Midianite merchants were passing, and they pulled Joseph out of the well. They sold Joseph to the Ishmaelites for twenty shekels of silver, and these men took Joseph to Egypt.

29 When Reuben went back to the well, there was no sign of Joseph. Tearing his clothes,

30 he went back to his brothers. 'The boy has gone,' he said. 'What am I going to do?'

31 They took Joseph's tunic and, slaughtering a goat, dipped the tunic in the blood.

32 Then they sent off the decorated tunic and had it taken to their father, with the message, 'This is what we have found. Do you recognise it as your son's tunic or not?'

33 He recognised it and cried, 'My son's tunic! A wild animal has devoured him! Joseph has been torn to pieces!'

34 Tearing his clothes and putting sackcloth round his waist, Jacob mourned his son for many days.

35 All his sons and daughters tried to comfort him, but he refused to be comforted. 'No,' he said, 'I will go down to Sheol in mourning and join my son.' Thus his father wept for him.

36 Meanwhile the Midianites had sold him in Egypt to Potiphar, one of Pharaoh's officials and commander of the guard.

Chapter 39

1 Now Joseph had been taken down into Egypt. Potiphar the Egyptian, one of Pharaoh's officials and commander of the guard, bought him from the Ishmaelites who had taken him down there.

2 Yahweh was with Joseph, and everything he undertook was successful. He lodged in the house of his Egyptian master,

3 and when his master saw how Yahweh was with him and how Yahweh made everything he undertook successful,

4 he was pleased with Joseph and made him his personal attendant; and his master put him in charge of his household, entrusting him with all his possessions.

5 And from the time he put him in charge of his household and all his possessions, Yahweh blessed the Egyptian's household out of consideration for Joseph; Yahweh's blessing extended to all his possessions, both household and estate.

6 So he left Joseph to handle all his possessions, and with him there, concerned himself with nothing beyond the food he ate. Now Joseph was well built and handsome,

7 and it happened some time later that his master's wife cast her eyes on Joseph and said, 'Sleep with me.'

8 But he refused. 'Look,' he said to his master's wife, 'with me here, my master does not concern himself with what happens in the house, having entrusted all his possessions to me.

9 He himself wields no more authority in this house than I do. He has exempted nothing from me except yourself, because you are his wife. How could I do anything so wicked, and sin against God?'

10 Although she spoke to Joseph day after day, he would not agree to sleep with her or be with her.

11 But one day when Joseph came into the house to do his work, and none of the men of the household happened to be indoors,

12 she caught hold of him by his tunic and said, 'Sleep with me.' But he left the tunic in her hand, took to his heels and got out.

13 When she saw that he had left the tunic in her hands as he ran out,

14 she called her servants and said to them, 'Look at this! My husband brought in a Hebrew to make a fool of me! He burst in on me, but I screamed,

15 and when he heard me scream, he left his tunic beside me and ran out of the house.'

16 She kept his tunic by her until his master came home.

17 Then she told him the same tale, 'The Hebrew slave you brought to us burst in on me to make a fool of me.

18 But when I screamed, he left his tunic beside me and ran away.'

19 When his master heard his wife say, 'This was how your slave treated me,' he became furious.

20 Joseph's master had him arrested and committed to the gaol where the king's prisoners were kept. And there in gaol he stayed.

21 But Yahweh was with Joseph. He showed him faithful love and made him popular with the chief gaoler.

22 The chief gaoler put Joseph in charge of all the prisoners in the gaol, making him responsible for everything done there.

23 The chief gaoler did not bother about anything put in his charge, since Yahweh was with him, and Yahweh made everything he undertook successful.

Chapter 40

It happened some time later that the king of Egypt's cup-bearer and his baker offended their master the king of Egypt.

2 Pharaoh was angry with his two officials, the chief cup-bearer and the chief baker,

3 and put them in custody in the house of the commander of the guard, in the gaol where Joseph was a prisoner.

4 The commander of the guard assigned Joseph to them to attend to their wants, and they remained in custody for some time.

5 Now both of them had dreams on the same night, each with its own meaning for the cup-bearer and the baker of the king of Egypt, who were prisoners in the gaol.

6 When Joseph came to them in the morning, he saw that they looked gloomy,

7 and he asked the two officials who were in custody with him in his master's house, 'Why these sad looks today?'

8 They replied, 'We have each had a dream, but there is no one to interpret it.' 'Are not interpretations God's business?' Joseph asked them. 'Tell me about them.'

9 So the chief cup-bearer described his dream to Joseph, telling him, 'In my dream there was a vine in front of me.

10 On the vine were three branches; no sooner had it budded than it blossomed, and its clusters became ripe grapes.

11 I had Pharaoh's cup in my hand; I picked the grapes and squeezed them into Pharaoh's cup, and put the cup into Pharaoh's hand.'

12 'This is what it means,' Joseph told him. 'The three branches are three days.

13 In another three days Pharaoh will lift up your head by restoring you to your position. Then you will hand Pharaoh his cup, as you did before, when you were his cup-bearer.

14 But be sure to remember me when things go well with you, and keep faith with me by kindly reminding Pharaoh about me, to get me out of this house.

15 I was kidnapped from the land of the Hebrews in the first place, and even here I have done nothing to warrant being put in the dungeon.'

16 The chief baker, seeing that the interpretation had been favourable, said to Joseph, 'I too had a dream; there were three wicker trays on my head.

17 In the top tray there were all kinds of pastries for Pharaoh, such as a baker might make, and the birds were eating them off the tray on my head.'

18 Joseph replied as follows, 'This is what it means: the three trays are three days.

19 In another three days Pharaoh will lift up your head by hanging you on a gallows, and the birds will eat the flesh off your bones.'

20 And so it happened; the third day was Pharaoh's birthday and he gave a banquet for all his officials. Of his officials he lifted up the head of the chief cup-bearer and the chief baker,

21 the chief cup-bearer by restoring him to his cup-bearing, so that he again handed Pharaoh his cup;

22 and by hanging the chief baker, as Joseph had explained to them.

23 But the chief cup-bearer did not remember Joseph; he had forgotten him.

Chapter 41

1 Two years later it happened that Pharaoh had a dream: there he was, standing by the Nile,

2 and there, coming up from the Nile, were seven cows, sleek and fat, and they began to feed among the rushes.

3 And then seven other cows, wretched and lean, came up from the Nile, behind them; and these went over and stood beside the other cows on the bank of the Nile.

4 The wretched and lean cows ate the seven sleek and fat cows. Then Pharaoh woke up.

5 He fell asleep and dreamed a second time: there, growing on one stalk, were seven ears of grain, full and ripe.

6 And then sprouting up, behind them, came seven ears of grain, meagre and scorched by the east wind.

7 The scanty ears of grain swallowed the seven full and ripe ears of grain. Then Pharaoh woke up; it had been a dream.

8 In the morning Pharaoh, feeling disturbed, had all the magicians and wise men of Egypt summoned to him. Pharaoh told them his dream, but there was no one to interpret it for Pharaoh.

9 Then the chief cup-bearer addressed Pharaoh, 'Today, I recall having been at fault.

10 When Pharaoh was angry with his servants, he put myself and the chief baker in custody in the house of the commander of the guard.

11 We had a dream on the same night, he and I, and each man's dream had a meaning for himself.

12 There was a young Hebrew with us, one of the slaves belonging to the commander of the guard. We told our dreams to him and he interpreted them for us, telling each of us what his dream meant.

13 It turned out exactly according to his interpretation: I was restored to my position, but the other man was hanged.'

14 Then Pharaoh had Joseph summoned, and they hurried him from the dungeon. He shaved and changed his clothes, and presented himself before Pharaoh.

15 Pharaoh said to Joseph, 'I have had a dream, and there is no one to interpret it. But I have heard it said of you that you can interpret a dream the instant you hear it.'

16 'Not I,' Joseph replied to Pharaoh, 'God will give Pharaoh a favourable answer.'

17 So Pharaoh told Joseph, 'In my dream there I was, standing on the bank of the Nile.

18 And there were seven cows, fat and sleek, coming up out of the Nile, and they began to feed among the rushes.

19 And then seven other cows came up, behind them, starved, very wretched and lean; I have never seen such poor cows in all Egypt.

20 The lean and wretched cows ate up the first seven fat cows.

21 But when they had eaten them up, it was impossible to tell they had eaten them, for they looked as wretched as ever. Then I woke up.

22 And then again in my dream, there, growing on one stalk, were seven ears of grain, beautifully ripe;

23 but then sprouting up behind them came seven ears of grain, withered, meagre and scorched by the east wind.

24 Then the shrivelled ears of grain swallowed the seven ripe ears of grain. I have told the magicians, but no one has given me the answer.'

25 Joseph said to Pharaoh, 'Pharaoh's dreams are one and the same: God has revealed to Pharaoh what he is going to do.

26 The seven fine cows are seven years and the seven ripe ears of grain are seven years; it is one and the same dream.

27 The seven gaunt and lean cows coming up behind them are seven years, as are the seven shrivelled ears of grain scorched by the east wind: there will be seven years of famine.

28 It is as I have told Pharaoh: God has revealed to Pharaoh what he is going to do.

29 Seven years are coming, bringing great plenty to the whole of Egypt,

30 but seven years of famine will follow them, when all the plenty in Egypt will be forgotten, and famine will exhaust the land.

31 The famine that is to follow will be so very severe that no one will remember what plenty the country used to enjoy.

32 The reason why Pharaoh had the same dream twice is that the event is already determined by God, and God will shortly bring it about.

33 'Pharaoh should now find someone intelligent and wise to govern Egypt.

34 Pharaoh should take action and appoint supervisors for the country, and impose a tax of one-fifth on Egypt during the seven years of plenty.

35 They will collect all the food produced during these good years that are coming, and store the grain under Pharaoh's authority, putting it in the towns and keeping it.

36 This food will form a reserve for the country against the seven years of famine which are coming on Egypt, so that the country will not be destroyed by the famine.'

37 Pharaoh and all his ministers approved of what he had said.

38 Then Pharaoh asked his ministers, 'Can we find anyone else endowed with the spirit of God, like him?'

39 So Pharaoh said to Joseph, 'Since God has given you knowledge of all this, there can be no one as intelligent and wise as you.

40 You shall be my chancellor, and all my people shall respect your orders; only this throne shall set me above you.'

41 Pharaoh said to Joseph, 'I hereby make you governor of the whole of Egypt.'

42 Pharaoh took the ring from his hand and put it on Joseph's. He dressed him in robes of fine linen and put a gold chain round his neck.

43 He made him ride in the best chariot he had after his own, and they shouted 'Abrek!' ahead of him. Thus he became governor of the whole of Egypt.

44 Pharaoh said to Joseph, 'Although I am Pharaoh, no one is to move hand or foot without your permission throughout Egypt.'

45 Pharaoh named Joseph Zaphenath-Paneah, and gave him Asenath daughter of Potiphera, priest of On, to be his wife. And Joseph began to journey all over Egypt.

46 Joseph was thirty years old when he entered the service of Pharaoh king of Egypt. After leaving Pharaoh's presence, Joseph travelled throughout the length and breadth of Egypt.

47 During the seven years of plenty, the soil yielded generously.

48 He collected all the food of the seven years while there was an abundance in Egypt, and stored the food in the towns, placing in each the food from the surrounding countryside.

49 Joseph gathered in grain like the sand of the sea, in such quantity that he gave up keeping count, since it was past accounting.

50 Before the year of famine came, two sons were born to Joseph: Asenath daughter of Potiphera, priest of On, bore him these.

51 Joseph named the first-born Manasseh, 'Because', he said, 'God has made me completely forget my hardships and my father's House.'

52 He named the second Ephraim, 'Because', he said, 'God has made me fruitful in the country of my misfortune.'

53 Then the seven years of plenty that there had been in Egypt came to an end,

54 and the seven years of famine set in, as Joseph had predicted. There was famine in every country, but throughout Egypt there was food.

55 But when all Egypt too began to feel the famine and the people appealed to Pharaoh for food, Pharaoh told all the Egyptians, 'Go to Joseph and do whatever he tells you.'

56 There was famine all over the world. Then Joseph opened all the granaries and rationed out grain to the Egyptians, as the famine grew even worse in Egypt.

57 People came to Egypt from all over the world to get supplies from Joseph, for the famine had grown severe throughout the world.

Chapter 42

1 Jacob, seeing that there were supplies to be had in Egypt, said to his sons, 'Why do you keep staring at one another?'

2 I hear', he said, 'that there are supplies in Egypt. Go down and procure some for us there, so that we may survive and not die.'

3 So ten of Joseph's brothers went down to procure grain in Egypt.

4 But Jacob did not send Joseph's brother Benjamin with his brothers. 'Nothing must happen to him,' he thought.

5 Thus the sons of Israel were among the other people who came to get supplies, there being famine in Canaan.

6 It was Joseph, as the man in authority over the country, who allocated the rations to the entire population. So Joseph's brothers went and bowed down before him, their faces touching the ground.

7 As soon as Joseph saw his brothers he recognised them. But he did not make himself known to them, and he spoke harshly to them. 'Where have you come from?' he asked. 'From Canaan to get food,' they replied.

8 Now when Joseph recognised his brothers, but they did not recognise him,

9 Joseph remembered the dreams he had had about them, and said to them, 'You are spies. You have come to discover the country's weak points.'

10 'No, my lord,' they said, 'your servants have come to get food.'

11 We are all sons of the same man. We are honest men, your servants are not spies.'

12 'Oh no,' he replied, 'you have come to discover the country's weak points.'

13 'Your servants were twelve brothers,' they said, 'sons of the same man in Canaan, but the youngest is at present with our father, and the other one is no more.'

14 To which Joseph retorted, 'It is as I said, you are spies.'

15 This is the test you are to undergo: as sure as Pharaoh lives you shall not leave unless your youngest brother comes here.

16 Send one of your number to fetch your brother; you others will remain under arrest, so that your statements can be tested to see whether or not you are honest. If not, then as sure as Pharaoh lives you are spies.'

17 Whereupon, he put them all into custody for three days.

18 On the third day Joseph said to them, 'Do this and you will live, for I am a man who fears God.'

19 If you are honest men, let one of your brothers be detained where you are imprisoned; the rest of you, go and take supplies home for your starving families.

20 But you must bring your youngest brother back to me; in this way, what you have said will be verified, and you will not have to die!' And this is what they did.

21 And they said to one another, 'Clearly, we are being punished for what we did to our brother. We saw his deep misery when he pleaded with us, but we would not listen, and now this misery has come home to us.'

22 Reuben retorted to them, 'Did I not tell you not to wrong the boy? But you would not listen. Now comes the accounting.'

23 They did not know that Joseph understood, because there was an interpreter between them.

24 He turned away from them and wept. When he was able to speak to them again, he chose Simeon out of their number and had him bound while they looked on.

25 Joseph gave the order to fill their panniers with grain, to put back each man's money in his sack, and to give them provisions for the journey. This was done for them.

26 Then they loaded their supplies on their donkeys and went away.

27 But when they camped for the night, one of them opened his sack to give his donkey some fodder and saw his money -- there it was in the mouth of his sack.

28 He said to his brothers, 'My money has been put back; here it is, in my sack!' Their hearts sank, and they looked at one another in panic, saying, 'What is this that God has done to us?'

29 Returning to their father Jacob in Canaan, they gave him a full report of what had happened to them,

30 'The man who is lord of the country spoke harshly to us, accusing us of spying on the country.'

31 We told him, "We are honest men, we are not spies."

32 We were twelve brothers, sons of the same father. One of us is no more, and the youngest is at present with our father in Canaan."

33 But the man who is lord of the country said to us, "This is how I shall know whether you are honest: leave one of your brothers with me. Take supplies for your starving families and be gone,
34 but bring me back your youngest brother and then I shall know that you are not spies but honest men. Then I shall give your brother back to you and you will be free to move about the country." '
35 As they emptied their sacks, each discovered his bag of money in his sack. On seeing their bags of money they were afraid, and so was their father.
36 Then their father Jacob said to them, 'You are robbing me of my children; Joseph is no more; Simeon is no more; and now you want to take Benjamin. I bear the brunt of all this!'
37 Then Reuben said to his father, 'You may put my two sons to death if I do not bring him back to you. Put him in my care and I will bring him back to you.'
38 But he replied, 'My son is not going down with you, for now his brother is dead he is the only one left. If any harm came to him on the journey you are undertaking, you would send my white head down to Sheol with grief!'

Chapter 43

1 But the famine in the country grew worse,
2 and when they had finished eating the supplies which they had brought from Egypt their father said to them, 'Go back and get us a little food.'
3 'But', Judah replied, 'the man expressly warned us, "You will not be admitted to my presence unless your brother is with you."
4 If you are ready to send our brother with us, we will go down and get food for you.
5 But if you are not ready to send him, we will not go down, in view of the man's warning, "You will not be admitted to my presence unless your brother is with you." '
6 Then Israel said, 'Why did you bring this misery on me by telling the man you had another brother?'
7 They replied, 'He kept questioning us about ourselves and our family, asking, "Is your father still alive?" and, "Have you another brother?" That is why we told him. How could we know he was going to say, "Bring your brother down here"?'
8 Judah then said to his father Israel, 'Send the boy with me, and let us be off and go, if we are to survive and not die, we, you, and our dependants.
9 I will go surety for him, and you can hold me responsible for him. If I do not bring him back to you and produce him before you, let me bear the blame all my life.
10 Indeed, if we had not wasted so much time we should have been there and back twice by now!'
11 Then their father Israel said to them, 'If it must be so, then do this: take some of the country's best products in your baggage and take them to the man as a gift: some balsam, some honey, gum tragacanth, resin, pistachio nuts and almonds.
12 Take double the amount of money with you and return the money put back in the mouths of your sacks; it may have been a mistake.
13 Take your brother, and go back to the man.
14 May El Shaddai move the man to be kind to you, and allow you to bring back your other brother and Benjamin. As for me, if I must be bereaved, bereaved I must be.'
15 The men took this gift; they took double the amount of money with them, and Benjamin. They set off, went down to Egypt and presented themselves before Joseph.
16 When Joseph saw Benjamin with them he said to his chamberlain, 'Take these men into the house. Slaughter a beast and prepare it, for these men are to eat with me at midday.'
17 The man did as Joseph had ordered, and took the men to Joseph's house.
18 The men were afraid at being taken to Joseph's house and said, 'We are being taken there because of the money replaced in our sacks the first time. They will set on us; they will fall on us and make slaves of us, and take our donkeys too.'
19 So they went up to Joseph's chamberlain and spoke to him at the entrance to the house.

20 'By your leave, sir,' they said, 'we came down once before to get supplies,
21 and when we reached camp and opened our sacks, there was each man's money in the mouth of his sack,
to the full. But we have brought it back with us,
22 and we have brought more money with us for the supplies. We do not know who put our money in our
sacks.'
23 'Set your minds at ease,' he replied, 'do not be afraid. Your God and the God of your father put treasure in
your sacks for you. I received your money.' And he brought Simeon out to them.
24 The man then took the men into Joseph's house. He offered them water to wash their feet, and gave their
donkeys fodder.
25 They arranged their gift while they waited for Joseph to come at midday, for they had heard they were to
dine there.
26 When Joseph arrived at the house they offered him the gift they had with them, bowing low before him.
27 He greeted them pleasantly, asking, 'Is your father well, the old man you told me of? Is he still alive?'
28 'Your servant our father is well,' they replied, 'he is still alive,' and they bowed respectfully.
29 Looking about, he saw his brother Benjamin, his mother's son. 'Is this your youngest brother', he asked, 'of
whom you told me?' And he added, 'God be good to you, my son.'
30 Joseph hurried out; so strong was the affection he felt for his brother that he wanted to cry. He went into
his room and there he wept.
31 After washing his face he returned and, controlling himself, gave the order: 'Serve the meal.'
32 He was served separately; so were they, and so were the Egyptians who ate in his household, for the
Egyptians could not take food with Hebrews; Egyptians have a horror of doing so.
33 They were placed facing him in order of seniority, from the eldest to the youngest, and the men looked at
one another in amazement.
34 He had portions carried to them from his own dish, the portion for Benjamin being five times larger than
any of the others. And they feasted with him and drank freely.

Chapter 44

1 Then Joseph instructed his chamberlain as follows: 'Fill these men's sacks with as much food as they can
carry, and put each man's money in the mouth of his sack.
2 And put my cup, the silver one, in the mouth of the youngest one's sack as well as the money for his rations.'
He did as Joseph had instructed.
3 At daybreak, the men were sent off with their donkeys.
4 They had gone only a little way from the city, when Joseph said to his chamberlain, 'Away now and follow
those men. When you catch up with them, say to them, "Why have you repaid good with evil?
5 Is this not what my lord uses for drinking and also for reading omens? What you have done is wrong."'
6 So when he caught up with them he repeated these words.
7 They asked him, 'What does my lord mean? Your servants would never think of doing such a thing.
8 Look, we brought you back the money we found in the mouths of our sacks, all the way from Canaan. Are we
likely to have stolen silver or gold from your master's house?
9 Whichever of your servants is found to have it shall die, and the rest of us shall be slaves of my lord.'
10 'Very well, then, it shall be as you say,' he replied, 'the one on whom it is found shall become my slave, but
the rest of you can go free.'
11 Each of them quickly lowered his sack to the ground, and each opened his own.
12 He searched, beginning with the eldest and ending with the youngest, and found the cup in Benjamin's
sack.
13 Then they tore their clothes, and when each man had reloaded his donkey they returned to the city.
14 When Judah and his brothers arrived at Joseph's house he was still there, so they fell on the ground in front
of him.

15 'What do you mean by doing this?' Joseph asked them. 'Did you not know that a man such as I am is a reader of omens?'

16 'What can we answer my lord?' Judah replied. 'What can we say? How can we clear ourselves? God himself has uncovered your servants' guilt. Here we are then, my lord's slaves, we no less than the one in whose possession the cup was found.'

17 'I could not think of doing such a thing,' he replied. 'The man in whose possession the cup was found shall be my slave, but you can go back unhindered to your father.'

18 At this, Judah went up to him and said, 'May it please my lord, let your servant have a word privately with my lord. Do not be angry with your servant, for you are like Pharaoh himself.'

19 My lord questioned his servants, "Have you father or brother?"

20 And we said to my lord, "We have an old father, and a younger brother born of his old age. His brother is dead, so he is the only one by that mother now left, and his father loves him."

21 Then you said to your servants, "Bring him down to me, so that I can set eyes on him."

22 We replied to my lord, "The boy cannot leave his father. If he leaves him, his father will die."

23 But you said to your servants, "If your youngest brother does not come down with you, you will not be admitted to my presence again."

24 When we went back to your servant my father, we repeated to him what my lord had said.

25 So when our father said, "Go back and get us a little food,"

26 we said, "We cannot go down. We shall go only if our youngest brother is with us for, unless our youngest brother is with us, we shall not be admitted to the man's presence."

27 So your servant our father said to us, "You know that my wife bore me two children.

28 When one of them left me, I supposed that he must have been torn to pieces, and I have never seen him since.

29 If you take this one from me too and any harm comes to him, you will send my white head down to Sheol with grief."

30 If I go to your servant my father now, and we do not have the boy with us, he will die as soon as he sees that the boy is not with us, for his heart is bound up with him;

31 and your servants will have sent your servant our father's white head down to Sheol with grief.

32 Now your servant went surety to my father for the boy. I said: "If I do not bring him back to you, let me bear the blame before my father all my life."

33 Let your servant stay, then, as my lord's slave in place of the boy, I implore you, and let the boy go back with his brothers.

34 How indeed could I go back to my father and not have the boy with me? I could not bear to see the misery that would overwhelm my father.'

Chapter 45

1 Then Joseph could not control his feelings in front of all his retainers, and he exclaimed, 'Let everyone leave me.' No one therefore was present with him while Joseph made himself known to his brothers,

2 but he wept so loudly that all the Egyptians heard, and the news reached Pharaoh's palace.

3 Joseph said to his brothers, 'I am Joseph. Is my father really still alive?' His brothers could not answer him, they were so dumbfounded at seeing him.

4 Then Joseph said to his brothers, 'Come closer to me.' When they had come closer to him he said, 'I am your brother Joseph whom you sold into Egypt.'

5 But now, do not grieve, do not reproach yourselves for having sold me here, since God sent me before you to preserve your lives.

6 For this is the second year there has been famine in the country, and there are still five years to come without ploughing or harvest.

7 God sent me before you to assure the survival of your race on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance.

8 So it was not you who sent me here but God, and he has set me up as a father to Pharaoh, as lord of all his household and governor of the whole of Egypt.

9 'Return quickly to your father and tell him, "Your son Joseph says this: 'God has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me without delay.

10 You will live in the region of Goshen where you will be near me, you, your children and your grandchildren, your flocks, your cattle and all your possessions.

11 There I shall provide for you -- for there are five years of famine still to come -- so that you, your household and all yours are not reduced to penury.' "

12 You can see with your own eyes, and my brother Benjamin can see too, that I am who I say I am.

13 Give my father a full report of all the honour I enjoy in Egypt, and of all you have seen; and quickly bring my father down here.'

14 Then throwing his arms round the neck of his brother Benjamin he wept; and Benjamin wept on his shoulder.

15 He kissed all his brothers, weeping on each one. Only then were his brothers able to talk to him.

16 News reached Pharaoh's palace that Joseph's brothers had come, and Pharaoh was pleased to hear it, as were his servants.

17 Pharaoh told Joseph, 'Say to your brothers, "Do this: load your beasts and hurry away to Canaan.

18 Fetch your father and your families, and come back to me. I will give you the best territory in Egypt, where you will live off the fat of the land."

19 And you, for your part, give them this order: "Do this: take waggons from Egypt, for your little ones and your wives. Get your father and come.

20 Never mind about your property, for the best of all Egypt will be yours." '

21 Israel's sons did as they were told. Joseph gave them waggons as Pharaoh had ordered, and he gave them provisions for the journey.

22 To each and every one he gave new clothes, and to Benjamin three hundred shekels of silver and five changes of clothes.

23 And to his father he sent ten donkeys laden with the best that Egypt offered, and ten she-donkeys laden with grain, bread and food for his father's journey.

24 And so he sent his brothers on their way. His final words to them were, 'And let there be no upsets on the way!'

25 And so they left Egypt. When they reached their father Jacob in Canaan,

26 they gave him this report, 'Joseph is still alive. He is at this moment governor of all Egypt!' But he was as one stunned, for he did not believe them.

27 However, when they told him all Joseph had said to them, and when he saw the waggons that Joseph had sent to fetch him, the spirit of their father Jacob revived,

28 and Israel said, 'That is enough! My son Joseph is still alive. I must go and see him before I die.'

Chapter 46

1 So Israel set out with all his possessions. Arriving at Beersheba, he offered sacrifices to the God of his father Isaac.

2 God spoke to Israel in a vision at night, 'Jacob, Jacob,' he said. 'Here I am,' he replied.

3 'I am El, God of your father,' he said. 'Do not be afraid of going down to Egypt, for I will make you into a great nation there.

4 I shall go down to Egypt with you and I myself shall bring you back again, and Joseph's hand will close your eyes.'

5 So Jacob left Beersheba. Israel's sons conveyed their father Jacob, their little children and their wives in the waggons Pharaoh had sent to fetch him.

6 Taking their livestock and all that they had acquired in Canaan, they arrived in Egypt -- Jacob and all his offspring.

7 With him to Egypt, he brought his sons and grandsons, his daughters and granddaughters -- all his offspring.
8 These were the names of the Israelites, Jacob and his descendants, who arrived in Egypt: Reuben, Jacob's first-born,
9 and the sons of Reuben: Hanoch, Pallu, Hezron and Carmi.
10 The sons of Simeon: Jemuel, Jamin, Ohad, Jachin, Zohar, and Shaul the son of the Canaanite woman.
11 The sons of Levi: Gershon, Kohath and Merari.
12 The sons of Judah: Er, Onan, Shelah, Perez, and Zerah (Er and Onan had died in Canaan), and Hezron and Hamul sons of Perez.
13 The sons of Issachar: Tola, Puvah, Jashub and Shimron.
14 The sons of Zebulun: Sereed, Elon and Jahleel.
15 These were the sons that Leah had borne to Jacob in Paddan-Aram, besides his daughter Dinah; in all, his sons and daughters numbered thirty-three.
16 The sons of Gad: Ziphion, Haggi, Shuni, Ezbon, Eri, Arodi and Areli.
17 The sons of Asher: Jimnah, Jishvah, Jishvi, Beriah, with their sister Serah; the sons of Beriah: Heber and Malchiel.
18 These were the sons of Zilpah whom Laban gave to his daughter Leah; she bore these to Jacob -- sixteen persons.
19 The sons of Rachel wife of Jacob: Joseph and Benjamin.
20 Born to Joseph in Egypt were: Manasseh and Ephraim sons of Asenath, daughter of Potiphera priest of On.
21 The sons of Benjamin: Bela, Becher, Ashbel, Gera, Naaman, Ehi, Rosh, Muppim, Huppim and Ard.
22 These were the sons that Rachel bore to Jacob -- fourteen persons in all.
23 The sons of Dan: Hushim.
24 The sons of Naphtali: Jahzeel, Guni, Jezer and Shillem.
25 These were the sons of Bilhah whom Laban gave to his daughter Rachel; she bore these to Jacob -- seven persons in all.
26 Altogether, the members of Jacob's family who arrived with him in Egypt -- his own issue, not counting the wives of Jacob's sons -- numbered sixty-six all told.
27 With Joseph's sons born to him in Egypt -- two persons -- the members of Jacob's family who went to Egypt totalled seventy.
28 Israel sent Judah ahead to Joseph, so that Judah might present himself to Joseph in Goshen. When they arrived in Goshen,
29 Joseph had his chariot made ready and went up to Goshen to meet his father Israel. As soon as he appeared he threw his arms round his neck and for a long time wept on his shoulder.
30 Israel said to Joseph, 'Now I can die, now that I have seen you in person and seen you still alive.'
31 Then Joseph said to his brothers and his father's family, 'I shall go back and break the news to Pharaoh. I shall tell him, "My brothers and my father's family who were in Canaan have come to me."
32 The men are shepherds and look after livestock, and they have brought their flocks and cattle and all their possessions."
33 Thus, when Pharaoh summons you and asks, "What is your occupation?",
34 you are to say, "Ever since our boyhood your servants have looked after livestock, we and our fathers before us," so that you can stay in the Goshen region -- for the Egyptians have a horror of all shepherds.'