

Tell a story
Parshah Miketz
by Julie Zhuk on 2022-12-24

Comments

The Parsha starts off describing what Egypt was like. It was an enormous empire, most probably Pharaoh had worked very hard. He had long meetings with government ministers, there were dinners with tons of guests, and many speeches that were given. By the end of the day, he would have been pretty exhausted. He would fall into bed and look forward to getting a good night's sleep. G-d had a different plan for Pharaoh. G-d was ready for Joseph to be freed. Pharaoh started having dreams. His dream was he stood over the Nile River and all of a sudden there was something very strange happening. There were seven fat cows that rose out of the river. Then they went to graze into a field and at the same time, there were another round of seven cows that came out of the river. These cows were skinny, they looked like they were so starved. One could see their bones coming out, they looked like skeletons. The seven skinny cows went over to the fat cows.

They swallowed all of them, but the skinny cows were still skinny and they were still skinny. It was a really fearful dream for Pharaoh. He woke up feeling afraid, it was still the middle of the night so he just turned over. He cuddled in his blankets and went back to sleep. Then he had another dream come to him, this time he saw seven ears of grain that had large, high-quality kernels that were growing on them. Then there were another seven ears that grew, but their kernels were different. They were small and they were scrawny and they were of very poor quality. The scrawny ears of grain swallowed up the good ears of grain. This was another terrifying dream for Pharaoh. He woke up shaking all over. The king was aware that these dreams had important messages.

He had to find out what they meant, so he called a meeting of Egypt's wise men. They were experienced in explaining dreams and he asked them to explain the dreams. The Egyptian wise men predicted disaster, they explained that the dream of the cows meant that Pharaoh would have seven daughters. Then all seven of them would die. They moved on to the dream of the ears of grain. They described that to mean that Pharaoh was going to conquer seven kingdoms. There would be seven Egyptian districts that would rebel against him. Pharaoh didn't accept their answers. Instantly he knew they were off with their descriptions of his dreams. He still had no explanation for these dreams, he thought for sure soon he would die. Then one of Pharaoh's officers was really afraid of Pharaoh's death. Who was this, we met him back in the previous parasha.

It was Chief Butler, the officer who was in charge of bringing drinks to Pharaoh. Chief Butler feared another king would take over and he would lose all the honor, respect, and money that went with his important job. All of a sudden Chief Butler remembered about Joseph, he felt that was the answer to his problem! He thought for sure Joseph would be able to explain what Pharaoh's dreams were saying. He remembered Joseph explaining the dreams that the Chief Butler had when in prison. In the end everything came out just like Joseph stated. Joseph would be able to tell Pharaoh what his dream meant. Pharaoh would live and Chief Butler could keep

his job. The Chief Butler hurried over to speak to Pharaoh, he reminded Pharaoh of what happened some time before.

How the king had thrown him and the Chief Baker into prison. Then he told Pharaoh what happened one night in jail, one night both the Chief Butler and Baker had unexplained dreams. They came to a young slave who was with them there. That slave had explained what the dreams meant and it turned out exactly as he had predicted. When the Chief Butler left prison, he forgot all about Joseph. Now that the time had come for Joseph to become ruler of Egypt, G-d made the Chief Butler remember Joseph. The Chief Butler wanted Pharaoh to talk to Joseph, but he was also afraid. If Joseph explained the dream correctly to Pharaoh, then Pharaoh would reward him by making him an important person. The Chief Butler didn't want that, he was jealous of other people's success.

The Midrash shows us he was a bad man. He could talk about Joseph without encouraging Pharaoh to make Joseph feel important. The Chief Butler said that Joseph was just a "young Hebrew slave." All these words were meant to leave Pharaoh with a bad impression of Joseph. Joseph was a young man meaning that he was immature and he was foolish. He was a Hebrew, who spoke Egyptian with an accent, so it was hard to understand him. Keyword that the Chief Butler used about Joseph was that he was a slave. In Egypt, a former slave couldn't become a ruler. Hearing about this former Hebrew slave, Pharaoh got very excited. He wanted to hear what this prisoner would predict about his future dreams and this time get it right.

Right away he ordered his guards to bring Joseph to him. It was the Jewish New Year when the guards took Joseph out of prison. Joseph got a haircut, instead of wearing a prisoner's uniform he was dressed in clothes fit to meet a king. Joseph finally meets the Ruler of the Egyptian Empire. Joseph is taken to Pharaoh, Pharaoh said to him that he had a dream, but no one can explain what it means. He heard that Joseph can explain the meaning of dreams. Then Joseph said that the wisdom to explain dreams is not his. He was giving the credit to G-d. G-d would tell him what to say. It was good enough for Pharaoh, he told Joseph his dreams. Joseph started to explain what was behind these dreams. Joseph told Pharaoh that the two dreams are really one dream. G-d was telling Pharaoh what He will do to Egypt.

The seven fat cows and seven good ears of grain stand for seven years when there will be plenty of food in Egypt. The seven skinny cows and seven bad ears of grain are going to be seven years of terrible hunger that would come after the seven years of plenty. Joseph explained why in the dream, the skinny cows were eating the fat cows. Yet they stayed skinny, the hunger is going to be so awful. All of the good times of the years will be completely forgotten. The dream was repeated twice to show that G-d is going to right away. Joseph gave Pharaoh some advice, Pharaoh needs to put a wise man in charge of all of Egypt. He will prepare the country for years of hunger. He should hire people to work who can gather food during the years of plenty. This way they can put away that food collected in Pharaoh's warehouses.

The purpose of this is to have enough food for the seven bad years and this way Pharaoh's people won't starve during the hunger years. Pharaoh knew that Joseph was right about what his dreams meant. Pharaoh had an idea, he gathered his advisers and government ministers to

discuss the terrible situation in the country they would be facing. Egypt would be destroyed by seven years of hunger. They had to take steps during the seven years of plenty, they needed a wise man to save the kingdom.

Pharaoh started wondering who he could pick. He told his advisers that they needed to search all over. He was looking for someone as wise as Joseph, but he didn't think anyone would be able to do the job as well as Joseph. That was why he wanted to put him in charge of all of Egypt. Pharaoh's advisers were in shock that he wanted to do this.

They asked Pharaoh if he was going to make a Hebrew slave become a ruler over all of them. Pharaoh told the advisors that he could tell Joseph was a nobleman and he was fit for royalty. The advisors argued with him that only someone who knows how to speak all seventy languages can be an Egyptian ruler. Pharaoh said that it was okay and he was going to test Joseph to see if he knew these languages. The commentary on this part of the Parsha tells us that Joseph didn't say he was smart enough to explain dreams. He knew that all his talent had come from G-d to begin with. When Joseph was praised for what he did, Joseph always explained that it wasn't him. He wasn't going to take the credit, he was going to give it to G-d. This is something for us to remember when we are praised for getting high marks, it's all coming from G-d. When Joseph goes to meet Pharaoh he has to walk up some steps.

Pharaoh gives Joseph a test, when discussing how to save Egypt, it was G-d who was making sure that Joseph would become a ruler over Egypt. G-d had sent an angel to teach Joseph all the seventy languages spoken in the world at the time. Joseph was taken back to Pharaoh and Pharaoh was sitting on a very large and beautiful throne. It was covered in silver and gold. The thrones were at the top of a high staircase. There were seventy steps in that staircase. Joseph walked up each step. Pharaoh was speaking to him in a different language. Joseph was able to answer him in all the different languages. For every language that they spoke, Joseph could move up one step higher on the staircase.

Joseph was getting one step closer to Pharaoh. He was going to pass Pharaoh's test, and Joseph would have to be able to get to the very top step. From the bottom of the staircase, the advisers watched as Joseph moved up step by step. He was getting higher and higher. Finally he reached the very top step. He had passed the test and Pharaoh could make him ruler of Egypt. Pharaoh is sitting at the top of his throne. Joseph reaches the top step and speaks to Pharaoh in one more language. That language was Hebrew. Pharaoh couldn't answer Joseph. Joseph knew one more language than Pharaoh did. This scared Pharaoh, he didn't want anyone to know there was a language he didn't speak. Pharaoh asked Joseph to swear to keep it a secret. Pharaoh tells Joseph that there is no one as smart as him. Pharaoh now put Joseph in charge of Egypt.

He went from being a slave in a prison to ruling over all of Egypt. He told Joseph that he was the highest ruler in the land, only Pharaoh's authority was higher than Joseph's. Pharaoh wanted to make things official. He took the royal ring off his finger and gave it to Joseph. The ring gave Joseph the power to make laws for the entire country. Pharaoh ordered for the finest linen royal robes to be brought for Joseph to wear. Pharaoh put a gold chain around Joseph's neck. Joseph was twelve years old when he went to jail. It was at age thirty that he suddenly became the ruler of Egypt. Pharaoh had to tell all of Egypt that Joseph was going to be their

new leader. There were no newspapers, phones, or cameras. Pharaoh made a spectacular parade that he sent throughout all of Egypt.

This way the Egyptians could meet Joseph, their new leader. The Parsha wants us to imagine being there, and watching this parade from the roof of our house. What a view it would be, crowds of men, women, and children. They would be standing on the sides of the road. They would be looking at the new ruler's chariot. Joseph would be standing up in the chariot. He would be wearing a fancy set of royal robes. On his neck, there would be a golden necklace that would gleam in the sun. The chariot would be pulled by the largest and the most beautiful horses anyone ever saw. At this parade, there would be thousands of musicians who would be marching behind Joseph. They would be playing drums, the flutes, and harps. In front of Joseph's chariot would be five hundred men. They would be marching and holding out their swords.

Some of them would be juggling swords. There would be twenty soldiers marching right in front of the chariot. In a loud voice, they would ask together, "Has anyone seen Avrech - the king's adviser? He has been appointed the king's second in command - the viceroy. Whoever isn't going to bow down to him or obey his orders will be put to death!" After hearing that kind of announcement, the entire crowd would bow down to Joseph. They would shout, "Long live the king and long live his viceroy!". How does a president feel on the day they are being inaugurated? The parsha is asking us what is going through his mind when the new leader is traveling in his motorcade and they are surrounded by motorcycles and cars.

They saw crowds cheering him on? This is most likely the greatest and most important person on the planet. Joseph didn't think of himself in this way. All of the honor and glory that he was getting in this parade, would go to G-d. It was all he could think about. He was thinking about G-d the whole time. He felt he owed G-d for everything that was now happening. His good fortune was due to G-d. He remained modest and thanked G-d for everything. He said, the word blessed is He Who lifts the needy from the dust. He was feeling happy because of the faith he had in G-d. Joseph now had a new home. He was the new viceroy, Pharaoh had given him an Egyptian name as well.

His new name was Tzafnas-Panei'ach. It meant "Explainer of Mysteries". Pharaoh also gave Joseph a wife, her name was Osnas. She was the granddaughter of Jacob. Jacob was the one G-d brought to Egypt to be a wife for Joseph. Joseph and Osnas ended up having two boys. They were Menashe, the oldest and the youngest was Ephraim. All of those years that Joseph was in prison, he turned to G-d to get him out. When good things were happening to him in the parade he also turned to G-d. He was thanking G-d. Some people think of G-d only when bad things are happening.

They don't think of G-d when good things are happening. When things are not going well, we ask G-d for help. When good things are happening, like getting something we want, we should also turn to G-d. Joseph did this and we should be like Joseph. The Parsha has gotten to the part in the story about the good years in Egypt. During the years of plenty, Joseph hired an army of workers. They collected extra food and put it in Pharaoh's storehouses. Egyptian families also put away food for the years of hunger. The seven years of plenty came to an end.

Suddenly nothing was growing and it felt like one minute there was plenty of food. The next minute all of that food was gone, even the food the people were eating from the table, had spoiled at that moment when the seven years of hunger started.

The Egyptians didn't worry, they thought they had put food away for themselves. Imagine their surprise when they opened the doors of their warehouses and everything they had put away was spoiled. By some miracle, the only food that didn't spoil was what Joseph and his workers put away in Pharaoh's warehouses. The Egyptians felt desperate, they went to Joseph and asked for food. He said whoever wants food will have to get a *bris milah*. The Egyptians didn't want to do it, so they went crying and screaming at Pharaoh. Pharaoh asked them, he did warn you there would be a period of hunger right? Why didn't you prepare for it? They told Pharaoh that they did prepare, but their food had spoiled.

Pharaoh told them that all of their crops had rotted because of what Joseph said. What he predicts seems to happen. Pharaoh seemed to think that Joseph had powers. Pharaoh shared this train of thought with the people. He said that whatever Joseph tells the people to do, they should follow his instructions. The Egyptians did what Joseph asked. He opened all the warehouses and started to sell food to the Egyptians. There was hunger not only in Egypt, but it was also everywhere else in the world. When people heard the food was being sold in Egypt they came from other countries to buy food from Joseph. It became a really big business, money was being poured into Egypt.

Pharaoh's treasuries started to burst with wealth from Joseph's food sales. Joseph made Pharaoh extremely wealthy. Joseph knew that his brothers would come to Egypt to buy food. They were hungry and they were in Israel. When they would show up he wanted to know about it. Joseph had his workers keep an exact count of how much food had been collected. They collected so much food that they stopped counting. They had to stop counting because, at that time in Egypt, they had no names for numbers that went up so high. Joseph ordered the guards at the city gates to make everyone fill out a form when coming into Egypt. The form asked for their names, and the names of their father, and grandfather.

Joseph's son, Menashe was the one collecting the names and brought them to his father. Imagine Joseph sitting at his desk every evening counting through the long lists of names. Searching, searching, and hoping to find his brother's name. He wondered when they would get there already. In Israel at the time, there was also terrible hunger. There were families who were sending people to Egypt to buy food. Jacob's family was not going hungry though. G-d made sure that they would have food to eat. Jacob realized that word would get out that his family did not need food. People would get jealous. The parsha shares with us that when you're surrounded by enemies it is not good to give them an excuse to hate you even more.

Even though they didn't need the food, Jacob's family needed to do what everyone else was doing. They would have to travel to Egypt. Jacob called his sons together, he explained the situation. He told them to go down to Egypt and buy food. Jacob told the brothers to go to Egypt, he did not say the words, "*lechu, go*". Instead, he said, "*redu, meaning go down.*" Though Jacob didn't know it, the word "*redu*", which G-d put into his mouth was saying what would happen in the future. Jacob was hinting to them that they and their descendants would live in

Egypt for the next two hundred and ten years. The numerical value of the Hebrew letters is equal to the word used earlier here, "redu." Jacob instructed his sons that when they would get to Egypt not all go in together through one gate. Instead each one of them should go in through a different gate.

It seemed like a weird request, but Jacob wanted to protect his sons. They were very handsome and they were very strong. If they went as a group they would stand out and be noticed. People would look at them with an evil eye. Jacob feared people would give his sons an "ayin hara." It could be dangerous, if they went in separately they wouldn't be noticed. No one would give them an evil eye. There were only ten brothers who went to Egypt. Jacob was afraid to send his son Binyamin. In those days, the roads were dangerous. If anything happened to Binyamin, Jacob wouldn't have any children left from his late wife. His late wife was his beloved Rachel. The brothers got on their camels for their long trip. They took donkeys with them to carry the food they were going to bring home from Egypt.

As they got closer to Egypt, the roads were packed with people going there to buy food. Now the brothers were sorry for what they had done years ago to their brother. When the brothers got to the city they split up. Each brother went to a different city gate. At each gate they wrote their names down just as it was requested by the city gate guards. The brothers decided they would look for them in Egypt. They planned on buying Joseph back, no matter what it took or how much it would cost them. After going through each gate separately, they met up and started searching for Joseph. Joseph was really happy that his brothers' names were on the list of people who came to Egypt.

His brothers finally arrived and Joseph ordered all the warehouses selling food to close. Only one was left open, he called in its manager and gave him his brothers' names. When these people come to buy food, arrest them and bring them to me!" Joseph commanded. The first day had passed and none of the brothers came to buy food. Another day passed, and then another. Still no brothers, Joseph started to wonder where his brothers were. They had been in Egypt for three days already, and they didn't come to buy food. He really was pondering where his brothers could be, he thought they would for sure come to buy food. Joseph didn't want to wait anymore. He called for seventy mighty warriors from Pharaoh's palace and gave them a description of his brothers.

He said go find them now! The brothers were searching everywhere for Joseph. They had no idea he was the leader of all the people of Egypt. They never imagined him to be walking around in a royal palace. The brothers' were looking for Joseph in one of the city's open-air markets. Suddenly there was a commotion in the market. Seventy Egyptian soldiers had come to the market. They were looking around. The brothers were astonished when they saw the soldiers coming straight at them! They were surrounded, arrested, and then brought to Joseph's palace. The brothers were brought before the viceroy of Egypt. Joseph was in his royal robes, he was wearing a golden crown. He was sitting on his throne. In his hands he held a large golden cup.

He looked extremely impressive. The brothers started to bow down before Joseph. That was the custom in Egypt when meeting rulers. How were the brothers able to not recognize Joseph

when they met him? Joseph was their own brother, they did grow up together. When the brothers sold Joseph, he was only seventeen years old. Now he was grown up, he was a man of thirty years. His face was covered with a beard. That is why the brothers didn't recognize Joseph. Now that he saw his brothers bowing before him, Joseph remembered that in his dreams, his brothers would bow down to him.

The brothers stood up and Joseph asked them where they came from. The brothers said they were from the land of Canaan (it was what Israel used to be called back then). They said they had come to buy food. The brothers watched Joseph tap his golden cup. He spoke to them in a harsh tone, "I see by a magic cup that you are spies! Only spies go through separate city gates. Joseph accused the brothers of trying to find the best places to attack Egypt. As if they were looking for Egypt's weakest defenses. The brothers claimed that they were not spies! They came to buy food and they were a family of twelve brothers, but one of the brothers stayed behind with their father. The other is simply gone in the wind. Now they were trying to locate the missing brother.

The brothers explained they went through different gates, hoping to find the missing brother in fast way. This was when Joseph asked if you had found your missing brother and were asked to pay a very high price to get him back, would you do it? The brothers claimed that they would do so. Then Joseph asked the brothers, what would you do if his owner wouldn't sell him to you at any price? The brothers claimed to have fought for the missing brother to the death! That was when Joseph said, Ha! And referred to them as spies again coming into Egypt to kill our people. Joseph put his brothers in prison. On the third day, they were once again brought before Joseph.

He told them that he was going to let them go and bring food back home, but he wanted the brothers to go home and get the youngest brother. If they were to do that then Joseph would believe they were telling the truth. He told the brothers that one of them would stay in the prison and Joseph would keep him held as a hostage. The brothers were wondering why this was happening to them. They wondered why on earth they were in trouble now. They spoke to each other in Hebrew. They didn't know that Joseph understood Hebrew. They came to agreement that they were deserving of everything happening to them. It was because they had mistreated their brother Joseph.

Back then, Joseph had begged and pleaded for his brothers to not have thrown him into the pit. The brothers back then didn't feel sorry for him. Since they mistreated him, now they were suffering. Reuven spoke up to the brothers. He said, I told you to not transgress against the boy, but you didn't listen to me. Now we are being punished. The brothers didn't know that the viceroy was really Joseph. Joseph was nearby and understood every word the brothers exchanged with each other. So many years had passed, Joseph had heard that his brothers were truly sorry for selling him. He felt he had to cry so he left the room and the minute the door closed behind him, tears ran down his face. When he was able to stop crying, he washed his face. He went back to his brothers. Joseph pointed at Shimon, and told seventy soldiers to put handcuffs on him and take him back to prison.

When they tried to put their hands on Shimon, he let out a mighty roar. Its powers made the soldiers fall over and they ran off in terror. Joseph turned to his son Menashe. He said, You do it. Menashe closed in on Shimon, him hard on his back using his fist. Joseph brought Shimon to jail. Joseph told the brothers that Shimon was to stay in prison until they came back with their youngest brother who was back with their father Jacob. The parsha asks us why Joseph didn't tell his brothers who he was right away. Joseph had to do everything in his power to make his dreams come true. They were not just dreams, they were prophecies from G-d. He had to arrange for Binyamin to come to Egypt so all eleven brothers would bow to him, like in his first dream.

So far, since Binyamin was not in Egypt only ten brothers had bowed down to him. The parsha asks the readers why Joseph picked Shimon and not one of the other brothers? Joseph wanted to separate Shimon and Levi. Together they were dangerous and they could kill him. He remembered what Shimon and Levi had done to the city of Shechem. They had destroyed it. Shimon was also the one who had pushed Joseph into the pit before the brothers had sold him. Joseph ordered for the brothers' bags to be filled with food and that they be given food to eat for the trip back home. The brothers put the bags of food on their donkeys then they left Egypt. Joseph gave another order, he told his assistants to take the money that the brothers paid for the food and hide it in their bags.

At the end of the day of travel through the desert, the brothers stopped at a hotel for one night. Levi opened his bags to feed his donkey and found the money. He was surprised and told his brothers that his money had been returned. Here it was in his bag. The brothers got scared, this could only mean that they would be in more trouble. Someone had put the money there so they would be accused later of being thieves. They would be accused of taking food and not paying for it. They looked in their other bags - and all the money was there. They would all be in big trouble. When the brothers left, Joseph took Shimon out of prison. During his entire stay in Egypt, up until his brothers came back with Binyamin, Joseph gave Shimon food and drink. He took care of him. Shimon felt puzzled. He thought what kind of a viceroy is this?

First the viceroy puts him in a prison and then he takes him out. Shimon never guessed that the viceroy was actually his brother Joseph. What was supposed to be an easy trip to buy food had turned into a nightmare for the brothers. They were accused of spying, they had been put in prison, and their brother was being held hostage! Jacob heard his sons coming back. He went out to welcome them. He looked over anxiously, where was Shimon? Jacob's sons explained all the terrible things that happened to them in Egypt. They gave him the awful news that Shimon was being held as a hostage by Egypt's ruler. He would not be set free until they brought Binyamin back to Egypt.

When they unloaded their bags of food, they'd found that their money had been returned. Joseph was gone and their brother Shimon was gone too. The brothers wanted to go back to Egypt with Binyamin so they could free their brother Shimon. Jacob was suspicious though, something was wrong. He had sent Joseph to them and he had never come back. Jacob had sent Shimon with them to Egypt and he never came back. Jacob felt scared now, what if he would send his son Binyamin and he too wouldn't come back. Jacob told the brothers that Joseph was gone and Shimon was gone and now they wanted to take Binyamin. The oldest

son, Reuven, tried persuading his dad. Reuven said, put Binyamin in my care and I will bring him back.

If I don't bring him back, you can punish two of my sons. Jacob's response to that was aren't your sons, my sons too? What kind of a thing is that to say? Do I want to hurt my grandchildren? Jacob finally concluded that he would not send his son with him. That was that, no one disagrees with their father. Yehuda told his brothers to not worry, when there will be no food left, Jacob would have to send Binyamin. That happened, there came a time in Israel when the hunger situation got worse. Jacob's family was low on food and Jacob called the brothers together and told them to go back to Egypt and buy food. Yehuda spoke up that without Binyamin they couldn't go. The viceroy told us to not return without Binyamin.

Yehuda then went on to say that whether Binaymin comes back or not is only a maybe, if they don't go to buy the food they would surely die. Yehuda said that he would take Binyamin with him and he would be responsible for him. Yehuda would guarantee his return and if he didn't bring him back, then he would lose his share in the World to Come, his Olam Haba. Hearing this, Jacob allowed Yehuda to take Binyamin with him. Jacob thought it would be a great idea to send gifts to the viceroy. Perhaps he would treat the brothers better this way. Jacob didn't know that the viceroy was Joseph. Jacob told his sons to take expensive items that included top-quality honey, the oil of pistachio nuts, and almond oil.

The plan was to pay for the food they hoped to bring back, they took twice as much money as they had the first time around. Just in case prices went up and they took the money that they had found in their bags, to give back to the viceroy. Commentary on this topic here tells us that sometimes we work very hard, staying up late as we study for a big test. Or we practice for hours to win a big game or to perform in a production. Sometimes we wonder if we are ready or if we have done enough. The answer is it depends, in the case of the brothers, they had worked hard on their preparation.

They knew they were not ready unless Jacob prayed for G-d to intervene and help. No matter how hard we work to succeed, and to be ready we also need to ask for G-d to help. The parsha is asking us if we are ready to take the test, or to play the game, or to perform in the production. It really depends, hard work and prayers mean you are ready. Hard work alone, you are not ready. The brothers were ready to go back to Egypt. Jacob asked them what else they needed. He was really pleased to hear that they wanted him to pray for G-d to help. They asked for Jacob to pray for them. Jacob prayed that G-d should make the man he meant the ruler of Egypt little did he know that Joseph was the viceroy.

Jacob was asking G-d to let Joseph have mercy on his other sons and to release the brothers Shimon and Binyamin. The Parsha asks if this was a trap? Jacob gave his blessing for success, and the brothers went back to Egypt. They were again brought before Joseph in the palace. Joseph saw them and told Menashe to bring the brothers to his house. He told them to tell the servants to prepare a fine feast. When the brothers were being brought to Joseph's home, they felt scared. They thought it was going to be a trap, that they would be set up. They thought once they were in Joseph's palace, they would be ambushed, robbed, or worse turned into slaves. They were afraid this would be the punishment for not paying for the food they had bought the last time.

When the brothers got to the entrance of the palace, Menashe tried to persuade them to enter. The brothers were too afraid to come in. To protect themselves and to find out if Menashe was trying to trap them, they told him that they were on their way home. They had stopped over at a hotel. When they opened the bags they found the money they had used to pay for the food. They said they didn't know who put the money there, but they brought it back to pay Joseph. Menashe said to them to be at peace. He told them what they found was a treasure your G-d has given you. The dream comes true! Once Menashe wished them peace they knew that they were safe, and they entered Joseph's house. They had a wonderful reunion with their brother Shimon, when Menashe brought him out to join them.

The brothers were surprised at the way Shimon looked. They had worried that while Shimon was in jail, he wouldn't get much food. He looked great, while Shimon was in Egypt, Joseph had been feeding him well. As they were waiting for Joseph, the brothers refreshed themselves. They arranged the gifts they had brought in attractive jars so they would look even more impressive. Joseph walked into the room and the brothers presented him with the gifts. Then - just as Joseph had seen in his dream so many years before - all of his eleven brothers were bowing down to him. The first dream did come true in the end! Back to before the brothers went back to Egypt a second time, Jacob's prayers did help. He used a special Name of G-d that is Sha-dai. It means He Who said to the world, "dai" is enough!

This Name means G-d has the power to create the world and then to tell the world, "Enough" Stop getting bigger and bigger.

The parsha asks us why did Jacob use the Name of G-d? Jacob had suffered quite a lot in his life. He suffered from his brother Eisav. Then he suffered from his father-in-law Lavan, his beloved wife Rachel died, Joseph was gone, Shimon was gone, and now he was sending another son into danger. In this prayer, Jacob was begging G-d to let his suffering end. He was saying to G-d, please enough! Joseph and Binyamin greet the brothers and ask how their father is doing. They answered that he was still alive and doing well. Then they bowed down to Joseph again! Joseph sees Binyamin, and after asking the brothers if this was the youngest brother they had once talked about, Joseph decided to bless him.

The blessing was that G-d should be kind to him. When Joseph saw his baby brother Binyamin, he wanted to find out more about him. He asked Binyamin if he had a brother from his mother. He said yes, but I don't know where he is. Joseph asked him if he had any sons, and Binyamin said yes there are ten of them. They are all named after my lost brother. At this point, Joseph got really emotional over his brother's love for him. He started to cry and quickly left the room. He broke down and the tears came pouring down his face. Joseph forced himself to stop crying, washed his face, and went out to start the meal. Binyamin didn't want to forget his lost brother, so he gave his sons names that would remind him of Joseph. '

Here are the names he gave them and what they meant. The list of names starts with Bela, it means Joseph was swallowed up by the nations. That is, he was lost. Then Becher, meaning Joseph, was Binyamin's mother's firstborn. Ashbel was the third one, G-d made him a prisoner. The next son was Gera and that name translated to Joseph living in a foreign land. The fifth name was Naaman, meaning Joseph was very pleasant to be around. Then there was Echi

meaning Joseph was Binyamin's brother. The seventh name was Rosh, meaning that Joseph was Binyamin's leader. The eighth name was Muppim and translated to Joseph studying Torah from his father.

The ninth name was Chupim, which meant that Joseph was not at Binyamin's chupa. Nor was Binyamin at Joseph's chupa. The last name, the tenth name, was Ard. It meant Joseph went down to being lost among the Jewish nation. At this point of the story, Joseph still has not revealed to his brothers who he was. There was a test Joseph wanted to give his brothers, that they would need to pass before Joseph would reveal who he was. Joseph wanted to know if the brothers' love for one another included even Rachel's son, Binyamin.

If Joseph treated Binyamin better than the others, would they be jealous of their youngest brother? Joseph wanted to know if Binyamin got in trouble, would they go defend him? Joseph also wanted to know if they would risk their lives for their youngest brother Binyamin. Joseph had the plan to find out! He would get Binyamin in trouble and see what the brothers would do. How they would react. The brothers wanted to be good guests, so they waited for their host to seat them around the table. Joseph looked into his silver cup. He had decorated it with jewels and tapped it. He then looked up and said to the brothers, Reuven, Shimon, Levi, Yehuda, Yissachar, and Zevulun, you are the children of one mother.

Sit down in the order I call your names. It's in your birth order. He tapped the "magic" cup, again and again, seating the brothers around the table in their birth order. He grouped them according to their mothers. The brothers were astonished, they wondered how did he know? It seemed that Joseph's magic cup knew everything about them. When it was Binyamin's turn to be seated, Joseph said to him, "You have no mother and I don't either. Sit next to me." Binyamin sat at the head of the table with Joseph and his family. Joseph's wife knew that the people in the room were her brothers-in-law and her children's uncles. Joseph had already told his family the secret of who these special guests were!

At the meal, the brothers did something they had not done in twenty-two years. They drank wine. Out of sorrow for what they had done to Joseph, they stopped drinking wine. Joseph, too, had not had wine, since he was depressed being away from his family. Since they were all eating together with the ruler of Egypt, the brothers couldn't refuse. Now that Joseph had been reunited with his brothers, he had no reason not to drink wine anymore. The meal was not just any ordinary one. It was a royal banquet, and at the end of the meal, there were a lot of desserts. A heaping tray of fancy desserts and exotic fruits was placed before Joseph. He passed out the desserts to all his brothers, then the family, and then himself.

The empty platter was removed, but Joseph had not finished yet. He honored Binyamin by passing him his own plate of desserts. When Joseph's wife and sons saw what he did, they did it too. They were showing respect for their brother. Binyamin was sitting in front of five portions of dessert. Joseph told his son, Menashe, to fill the brothers' bags with food and put their money in their bags, as well. Joseph then took his magic silver cup and gave it to Menashe. Joseph told Menashe to hide this in Binyamin's bag. The next morning, the brothers took their bags and loaded their animals. They were happy everything seemed to have gone well.

They rode their animals out into the desert and were leaving Egypt. They were journeying back home. They didn't get very far, the city walls were still in sight behind them. Suddenly the silence of the desert was broken by loud noises, there was the sound of hoof beats made by galloping horses. The brothers were startled by the noise. They turned around and coming out of a cloud of sand they saw Menashe riding in front of a group of soldiers. They were coming straight at them! The brothers stopped. They allowed Menashe and his soldiers to catch up to them. Joseph had told them to chase after the brothers and ask them, "why have you repaid good with evil? He asked, how could you take the viceroy's magic cup, which he uses to see what is hidden and what is a secret? The brothers instantly asked Joseph back, how could he say such a thing?

They said they would have never done something like that and they would never do something like that! The brothers even stated they had returned the money they found in their bags from their last trip. Now they were wondering why Joseph was accusing them of stealing anything. The brothers knew they didn't steal the cup. They were going to show Menashe how sure they were that none of them had done it, they said, "If you find it, then the one who has it should be put to death. The rest of us will become your slaves!" Menashe turned back to the brothers saying, their suggestion wouldn't be necessary. He was going to be merciful, the one who had it would become a slave.

The rest of them would be able to go. Menashe demanded to search through their bags, and they were surrounded by soldiers. The brothers took their bags off their animals. They placed them on the ground. Menashe opened each one of the brothers' bags. He started with Reuven, and then went to Shimon, searching the bags of each of the brothers according to their age. He did this from oldest to youngest. Menashe finally reached the bags of the youngest brother, Binyamin. Going through Binyamin's bags, Menashe lifted something out for all the brothers to see. Menashe was not surprised, after all, he had put it there himself. The brothers were in shock, they knew their brother never stole the cup. T

hey realized the viceroy was out to get them, and they were in big trouble again. The brothers were arrested, the brothers loaded their animals, and sadly followed Menashe back to Egypt. They were brought straight to Joseph, who was waiting for them. From this story, we learn that Joseph and his brothers don't get along. The Torah is sending us a strong message, we can hear it if we really want to. A Jew is a Jew, it doesn't matter if the person is Sephardic or Ashkenzai. It doesn't matter what yeshiva they are from either. The point is, we are all brothers and sisters. We have to treat each other with love and respect.

How do our kids' parents feel when siblings fight? G-d is the Father of us all. We give Him the greatest pleasure when He sees His children getting along. The brothers bow down to Joseph again. Joseph accused them of asking, what have you done?" He asked, don't you know this is my special cup? Yehuda told him they didn't steal it, but we know that this is a punishment from G-d for a transgression we did long ago. We accept the punishment and will all be your slaves. Then Joseph told them that wouldn't be fair. Joseph said he didn't plan on doing such a thing! Joseph told them they were all free to go, except for the man who had the magic cup in their bag all of this time.

He was going to keep Binyamin as his slave. Joseph was testing his brothers, had they really done teshuva for selling him? Were his brothers prepared to treat their brother with love, even though he was Rachel's son? Would they be willing to risk their lives to save him from becoming a slave? The parsha finally comes to an end, the story is not over. We will have to wait for next week's parsha to find out if Yehuda will save Binyamin from being enslaved. There is also the question of whether Jacob is going to see his son Binyamin again. We will find out in the next parsha, what will happen to the brothers.