

Family Place and the Joseph Saga, Genesis 37: 17-34

So Joseph followed his brothers and found them at Dothan.

וַיֵּרְאוּ אֹתוֹ מֵרֶחֶק וּבְטָרֵם יִקְרַב אֲלֵיהֶם וַיִּתְנַקְלוּ אֹתוֹ לְהַמִּיתוֹ: They saw him from afar, and before he came close to them they conspired to kill him.

וַיֹּאמְרוּ אִישׁ אֶל-אָחִיו הֲזֶה בֹּעֵל הַחֲלֹמוֹת הַלְזָה בָּא: They said to one another, “Here comes that dreamer!

וְעַתָּה | לְכוּ וְנַהַרְגֵהוּ וְנִשְׁלַכְהוּ בְּאֶתֶד הַבְּרוֹת וְאָמְרֵנוּ תְּנֵה רָעָה אֲכַלְתֶּהוּ וְנִרְאָה מִה-יְהִי חֲלֹמְתוֹ: Come now, let us kill him and throw him into one of the pits; and we can say, ‘A savage beast devoured him.’ We shall see what comes of his dreams!”

וַיִּשְׁמַע רְאוּבֵן וַיִּצְלַח מֵיָדָם וַיֹּאמֶר לֹא נִכְנֹו נַפְשׁוֹ: But when Reuben heard it, he tried to save him from them. He said, “Let us not take his life.”

וַיֹּאמֶר אֲלֵהֶם | רְאוּבֵן אֶל-תִּשְׁפְּכוּ-דָם הַשְּׁלִיכוּ אֹתוֹ אֶל-הַבּוֹר הַזֶּה אֲשֶׁר בַּמִּדְבָּר וְנָד אֶל-תִּשְׁלַחוּ-בּוֹ לְמַעַן וַיִּצֵּל אֹתוֹ מֵיָדָם לְהַשִּׁיבּוֹ אֶל-אָבִיו: And Reuben went on, “Shed no blood! Cast him into that pit out in the wilderness, but do not touch him yourselves”—intending to save him from them and restore him to his father.

וַיְהִי כַּאֲשֶׁר-בָּא יוֹסֵף אֶל-אָחָיו וַיִּפְשְׁטוּ אֶת-יוֹסֵף אֶת-כְּתֹנֶתוֹ אֶת-כְּתֹנֶת הַפָּסִים אֲשֶׁר עָלָיו: When Joseph came up to his brothers, they stripped Joseph of his tunic, the ornamental tunic that he was wearing,

וַיִּקְחֵהוּ וַיִּשְׁלַכּוּ אֹתוֹ בְּהֶבְרָה וְהַבּוֹר רֶק אֵין בּוֹ מַיִם: and took him and cast him into the pit. The pit was empty; there was no water in it.

וַיָּשֻׁבוּ לְאָכַל-לֶחֶם וַיִּשְׂאוּ עֵינֵיהֶם וַיִּרְאוּ וַהֲנִיחַ אֶרְחַת יִשְׁמַעֲאֵלִים בָּאָה מִגִּלְעָד וּגְמָלֵיהֶם נִשְׂאִים נֹכָחַת וַיִּצְרִי וְלֹט הוֹלְכִים לְהוֹרִיד מִצְרַיִם: Then they sat down to a meal. Looking up, they saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead, their camels bearing gum, balm, and ladanum to be taken to Egypt.

וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוּדָה אֶל-אָחָיו מִה-בֹּצֵעַ כִּי נַהַרְגֵם אֶת-אָחֵינוּ וְכִסִּינוּ אֶת-דַּמּוֹ: Then Judah said to his brothers, “What do we gain by killing our brother and covering up his blood?”

לָכוּ וְנִמְכְּרֵנוּ לְיִשְׁמַעֲאֵלִים וְנִדְגַנּוּ אֶל-תְּהִי-בּוֹ כִּי-אֶתְּנוּ בְּשָׂרֵנוּ הֲוֵא וַיִּשְׁמְעוּ אָחָיו: Come, let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, but let us not do away with him ourselves. After all, he is our brother, our own flesh.” His brothers agreed.

וַיַּעֲבְרוּ אַנְשֵׁים מִדִּינָיִם סְחָרִים וַיִּמְשְׁכוּ וַיַּעֲלוּ אֶת־יוֹסֵף מִן־הַבּוֹר וַיִּמְכְּרוּ אֶת־יוֹסֵף לְיִשְׁמָעֵאלִים בְּעֶשְׂרִים וַיַּעֲבְרוּ אַנְשֵׁים מִדִּינָיִם סְחָרִים וַיִּמְשְׁכוּ וַיַּעֲלוּ אֶת־יוֹסֵף מִן־הַבּוֹר וַיִּמְכְּרוּ אֶת־יוֹסֵף לְיִשְׁמָעֵאלִים בְּעֶשְׂרִים: When Midianite traders passed by, they pulled Joseph up out of the pit. They sold Joseph for twenty pieces of silver to the Ishmaelites, who brought Joseph to Egypt.

וַיָּשָׁב רְאוּבֵן אֶל־הַבּוֹר וְהִנֵּה אֵין־יוֹסֵף בַּבּוֹר וַיִּקְרַע אֶת־בְּגָדָיו: When Reuben returned to the pit and saw that Joseph was not in the pit, he rent his clothes.

וַיָּשָׁב אֶל־אֶחָיו וַיֹּאמֶר הֲיִלָּד אֵינְנוּ וְאֲנִי אֲנִי אֲנִי־בָא: Returning to his brothers, he said, “The boy is gone! Now, what am I to do?”

וַיִּקְחוּ אֶת־כְּתֹנֶת יוֹסֵף וַיִּשְׁחָטוּ שְׂעִיר עִזִּים וַיִּטְבְּלוּ אֶת־הַכְּתֹנֶת בַּדָּם: Then they took Joseph’s tunic, slaughtered a kid, and dipped the tunic in the blood.

וַיִּשְׁלְחוּ אֶת־כְּתֹנֶת הַפְּטִים וַיָּבִיאוּ אֶל־אָבִיהֶם וַיֹּאמְרוּ זֹאת מָצָאנוּ הַפָּר־נָא הַכְּתֹנֶת בְּנוֹךְ הוּא אִם־לֹא: They had the ornamented tunic taken to their father, and they said, “We found this. Please examine it; is it your son’s tunic or not?”

וַיִּפְרֹה וַיִּכְרָה וַיֹּאמֶר כְּתֹנֶת בְּנֵי חַיָּה רָעָה אֲכָלָתְהוּ טָרֵף טָרֵף יוֹסֵף: He recognized it, and said, “My son’s tunic! A savage beast devoured him! Joseph was torn by a beast!”

Genesis 48:3-5

וַיֹּאמֶר וַיַּעֲקֹב אֶל־יוֹסֵף אֵל שְׁנֵי נְרָאָה־אֵלֵי בְלוֹז בְּאֶרֶץ כְּנָעַן וַיְבָרֶךְ אֹתוֹ: And Jacob said to Joseph, “El Shaddai appeared to me at Luz in the land of Canaan, and He blessed me,

וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלַי הִנְנִי מִפְּרֹךְ וְהִרְבִּיתִּיךָ וַיִּתְּתִיךָ לְקָהָל עַמִּים וַיְנַתְּתִי אֶת־הָאֶרֶץ הַזֹּאת לְזֶרְעֶךָ אֶתְרִיךָ אֶחָדָה עֹלָם: and said to me, ‘I will make you fertile and numerous, making of you a community of peoples; and I will assign this land to your offspring to come for an everlasting possession.’

וְעַתָּה שְׁנֵי־בָנֶיךָ הַנּוֹלָדִים לְךָ בְּאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם עַד־בָּאִי אֵלַיךָ מִצְרַיִמָּה לִי־הֵם אֶפְרַיִם וּמְנַשֶּׁה כְּרְאוּבֵן וְעַתָּה שְׁנֵי־בָנֶיךָ הַנּוֹלָדִים לְךָ בְּאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם עַד־בָּאִי אֵלַיךָ מִצְרַיִמָּה לִי־הֵם אֶפְרַיִם וּמְנַשֶּׁה כְּרְאוּבֵן: Now, your two sons, who were born to you in the land of Egypt before I came to you in Egypt, shall be mine; Ephraim and Manasseh shall be mine no less than Reuben and Simeon.

וַיְבָרְכֵם בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא לְאִמּוֹרְךָ בְּךָ יִבְרַךְ יִשְׂרָאֵל לְאִמֹּר יִשְׁמַעְךָ אֱלֹהִים כְּאֶפְרַיִם וְכַמְנַשֶּׁה וַיִּשָּׂם אֶת־אֶפְרַיִם וַיְבָרְכֵם בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא לְאִמּוֹרְךָ בְּךָ יִבְרַךְ יִשְׂרָאֵל לְאִמֹּר יִשְׁמַעְךָ אֱלֹהִים כְּאֶפְרַיִם וְכַמְנַשֶּׁה וַיִּשָּׂם אֶת־אֶפְרַיִם: So he blessed them that day, saying, “By you shall Israel invoke

blessings, saying: God make you like Ephraim and Manasseh.” Thus he put Ephraim before Manasseh.