

Joseph and His Brothers

Narrator: Hasina

Joseph: Hosanna

Reuben: Jonathan

Judah: Samantha

Asher: Keziah

Dan: Isaac

Jacob: Dhirrej

Trader: Marc, Jasmine

Pharoah: Ottis

Benjamin: Raed

1/NARRATOR: Jacob was a man who had found favor with God. He prospered and had twelve sons, but he did not treat all his sons equally. He had a great love for Joseph, first son of his beloved Rachel. The other brothers were aware of Jacob's favoritism.

(BROTHERS LEAN CLOSE TOGETHER AND WATCH
2/JACOB AND 3/JOSEPH)

2/JACOB (lovingly): My dear son, I am glad to see you home from tending the sheep with your brothers. What do you have to report?

**3/JOSEPH:
(whispering)** Well, even though I am only seventeen, I know that my brothers are not doing the right things. Here are some of the evil things they have been doing.

(3/JOSEPH LEANS TO 2/JACOB AND WHISPERS INTO HIS EAR. 2/JACOB SHAKES HIS HEAD SADLY, THEN GIVES 3/JOSEPH A HUG.)

1/NARRATOR: The brothers could tell that their father loved Joseph more than the rest of them and that made them angry.

5/JUDAH (angrily): Joseph has told our father bad things about us. Look at

him! He is always close to our father's side! We work hard for our father, and our father ignores us. He only thinks of his precious *Joseph*.

2/JACOB (proudly): Joseph, come and see the gift I have for you.

(2/JACOB PRETENDS TO HOLD UP A ROBE.

3/JOSEPH LOOKS SURPRISED AND DELIGHTED. ALL BROTHERS, 4, 5, 6, 7, LOOK DISGUSTED, FRUSTRATED AND ANGRY.)

3/JOSEPH (excitedly): Father, it's beautiful. No one has ever had such a wonderful robe. It has SLEEVES, marvelous decorations, and beautiful colors. How did you get the dyes for such a spectacular garment?

(3/JOSEPH PUTS ON THE ROBE AND PARADES PROUDLY.)

6/ASHER (baffled): Why does Joseph get such a beautiful robe?

7/DAN:
(disappointedly) We work hard every day, yet *Joseph, Joseph, Joseph*—that's all we hear. He is the favorite.

(3/JOSEPH STOPS HIS PARADING AND LOOKS AT HIS BROTHERS)

3/JOSEPH (eagerly): Listen. I had a dream last night. We were all binding sheaves in the field and MY sheaf stood up. Then all YOUR sheaves stood up and gathered around mine.

Next—and this is the best part—YOUR sheaves all bowed down to the ground in front of my sheaf.

(3/JOSEPH SMILES BRIGHTLY, LOOKING FOR APPROVAL. THE BROTHERS 4,5,6,7 GLARE ANGRILY AT 3/JOSEPH.)

4/REUBEN:
(indignantly) Are you to reign over us?

5/JUDAH (furiously): Do you believe in your dream? Do you think you will rule us? You want to be our king? I don't think so!

7/ASHER (to 6/DAN): I am beginning to hate that Joseph!

6/DAN (to 7/ASHER): He makes me mad! Reign over us? HA!

1/NARRATOR: Joseph's brothers were aware of Jacob's love for Joseph. They hated Joseph because Jacob gave Joseph gifts as well as love. They hated Joseph's dreams of being superior to the rest of them. Joseph didn't seem to notice how his brothers felt, and soon he told them of another dream.

3/JOSEPH (proudly): Gather round. I've had another dream. It was better than the first one. In this dream, the sun and the moon and eleven stars were bowing down to me.

(2/JACOB SHAKES HIS HEAD SLOWLY.)

2/JACOB (sternly): What sort of dream is this? Will I bow to you? Will your mother bow to you? Will your brothers bow to you?

(5/JUDAH PUSHES HANDS AWAY FROM HIS BODY IN GESTURE OF DISGUST AND TURNS TO GO).

**5/JUDAH:
(frustratedly)** Enough of these dreams. I go to tend the sheep.

1/NARRATOR: Although Jacob rebuked Joseph for his dream, he still thought about what his beloved son had said.

(2/JACOB STROKES HIS CHIN AND LOOKS THOUGHTFULLY AT 3/JOSEPH.)

1/NARRATOR: As time passed, the brothers tried to avoid Joseph and his stories of his dreams. Jacob preferred to keep his young son close to home, but this was not always possible..

2/JACOB: Joseph, your brothers have been gone for a long time. They are grazing the flocks near Shechem. Go and see if all is well with them and then come back to me.

1/NARRATOR: Young Joseph did as his father asked and went to Shechem, but he did not find his brothers. As he was wandering, he met a man who told him that his brothers had moved the flock to Dothan. Joseph went toward Dothan.

(3/JOSEPH WALKS IN PLACE.)

6/DAN (scornfully): Here comes the dreamer!

7/ASHER: I recognize his *beautiful* coat of many colors.
(with contempt)

5/JUDAH (angrily): Let's kill him!

4/REUBEN (nodding): We could throw him into one of those dry wells.
(4/REUBEN POINTS OFF STAGE.)

7/ASHER (delighted): We could say a wild beast ate him.

6/DAN (laughing): Ha, ha. We will see what happens to his dreams then!

4/REUBEN (alarmed): Wait—let's not kill him! We don't want to shed his blood. Let's throw him in this dry well—then he will die, but not by our hands.

1/NARRATOR: Reuben convinced his brothers to put Joseph in the well. Reuben planned to return, take Joseph out of the well, and return him to his father.
(3/JOSEPH ARRIVES SMILING. THE BROTHERS SURROUND HIM AND PRETEND TO REMOVE HIS COAT. THEN THEY DRAG HIM TO THE BACK OF THE STAGE. 3/JOSEPH SITS WITH BACK TO AUDIENCE. 4/REUBEN LEAVES THE STAGE.)

Slave Trader: Hi, guys. Want to buy some slaves?

Judah: Actually, we have a slave to sell. Here is my brother Joseph. Take him.

Slave Trader: Nice doing business with you!

Narrator: The brothers told their dad that Joseph died.

Jacob: (crying) Joseph, my son! (crying)

Narrator: In Egypt, Joseph suffered a lot. He was sold as a slave. Then, he went to jail for doing the right thing, but he never complained or had bad attitudes. He always worked hard and gave thanks to God. Many years later, Pharaoh made Joseph the second command in Egypt, because Joseph interpreted Pharaoh's dreams with the wisdom from God.

Pharoah: Since God has made all this known to you, there is no one so discerning and wise as you. You shall be in charge of my palace, and all my people are to submit to your orders. Only with respect to the throne will I be greater than you.

I hereby put you in charge of the whole land of Egypt.

(Give the signet ring to Joseph)

Narrator: Later, Joseph's brothers also came to Egypt to buy food. Joseph put them all in jail. He wanted to do revenge, but he prayed to God and decided to forgive. His brothers also changed. They regretted what they did to Joseph. When the little brother Benjamin was about to be taken as a slave, Judah even wanted to sacrifice his life for Benjamin.

Benjamin: I don't want to be a slave.

Judah: Please release my little brother, and I will be your slave for the rest of my life. Let my little brother go back to our father.

Joseph: I am Joseph! Is my father still living?

Narrator: Joseph told his brothers that he is Joseph. The brothers were all so shocked. Joseph forgave his brothers. Then, Joseph invited his father Jacob to Egypt, and the whole family lived there for hundreds of years, until Moses's age.

Everyone: The End.