



ask your children questions!

for Mums & Dads,
1001

Summary of the פָּרָשָׁה, by עֲלוֹת

פְּתוּחַ pleaded with יוֹסֵף not to keep בְּנֵימִין behind. He explained everything that had happened, and that יַעֲקֹב could not bear to see the brothers return without בְּנֵימִין, particularly since he has already lost one son. .

לֵוִי told יוֹסֵף that he had taken responsibility for בְּנֵימִין and pleaded that he should be held, himself, rather than בְּנֵימִין. Then, בְּנֵימִין would be able to return with his brothers to יַעֲקֹב. Now יוֹסֵף could not restrain himself. He ordered that everyone except his brothers should leave, then he cried out loud and revealed his identity. He asked whether his father was still alive, but his brothers could not answer him because they were so confused. He asked his brothers to come near to him, then told them not to be angry at themselves, for everything had been ה' plan.

שְׁלִישִׁי יוֹסֵף told his brothers to return and tell their father to come back with them, and with all of his family and belongings, to live in גֶּשֶׁן . יוֹסֵף would look after them and help them to survive the remaining five years of famine. יוֹסֵף and בְּנֵימִין wept and embraced each other. יוֹסֵף then kissed all of his brothers and wept on them. Then all the brothers talked with יוֹסֵף. The news spread that יוֹסֵף's brothers had arrived. פְּרַעֲהַ said that the brothers should go and bring יַעֲקֹב and their families. The best of the land would be given to them.

רְבִיעִי יוֹסֵף gave his brothers wagons, provisions for the journey and changes of clothing. To בְּנֵימִין he gave 300 pieces of silver and five changes of clothing. **חז"ל** - **הַכַּמְיִנוּ זְכָרָנָם לַבְּרָכָה** (our Rabbis, of blessed memory) teach us that this was a hint to the future success of בְּנֵימִין's descendant, מְרֹדֵכִי, who was to be dressed in five royal garments. He sent twenty donkeys, laden with gifts and food, to his father. When the brothers told their father that יוֹסֵף was still alive he did not believe it, at first. When they told him what יוֹסֵף had said, and when he saw the wagons, וַתְּחִי רוּחַ יַעֲקֹב אֲבִיהֶם - "the spirit of their father, יַעֲקֹב, was revived."

חֲמִישִׁי "וַיֹּאמֶר יִשְׂרָאֵל רַב עוֹד יוֹסֵף בְּנִי הִי אֶלְכָה וְאֶרְאֶנּוּ בְּטָרָם אָמוּתִי:" "And יִשְׂרָאֵל said: 'How great! My son יוֹסֵף still lives! I shall go and see him before I die.'" יִשְׂרָאֵל set out with all that he had. In בָּאָר שֶׁבַע he offered sacrifices to ה'. ה' appeared to him in the night and told him not to worry about going down to מִצְרַיִם, for ה' would look after him, he would become a great nation, and ה' would bring them out. יַעֲקֹב went down to מִצְרַיִם with all of his family - seventy people in total.

שֵׁשִׁי יַעֲקֹב sent יְהוּדָה ahead, to יוֹסֵף, to prepare for their arrival in גֶּשֶׁן. (גֶּשֶׁן brings a מִדְרָשׁ רַש"י which teaches us that יְהוּדָה's mission was to go ahead to גֶּשֶׁן to build a יִשְׁבָּה there. This would make sure there would be a place to study תּוֹרָה there when everyone arrived.) יוֹסֵף went to meet his father in גֶּשֶׁן, and wept on his neck, very much, when they met. יוֹסֵף introduced his brothers to פְּרַעֲהַ, and פְּרַעֲהַ gave them permission to live in גֶּשֶׁן. יוֹסֵף introduced יַעֲקֹב to פְּרַעֲהַ, and יַעֲקֹב blessed פְּרַעֲהַ.

סֵפֶר בְּרָאשִׁית

- בְּרָאשִׁית
- נח
- לֵךְ-לֵךְ
- וַיֵּרָא
- חַיֵּי שָׂרָה
- תּוֹלְדוֹת
- וַיֵּצֵא
- וַיִּשְׁלַח
- וַיִּשָּׁב
- מִקֶּץ
- וַיִּגַּשׁ
- וַיַּחֲיוּ

שְׁבִיעֵי People came from all around to buy food from יוסף during the famine. When their money ran out they paid with livestock - horses, sheep, cattle, donkeys. Then they had to sell their land, and all the land became פְּרָעָה's. Everyone had to give a fifth of their produce to פְּרָעָה. Only כֹּהֲנִים (idol-worshipping priests) did not have to give the fifth, because only their land did not become פְּרָעָה's.
 גִּשְׁן בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל settled in the land of גִּשְׁן; they acquired property in it and they were fruitful and multiplied greatly.”

Bereishit: Perek 45 Pasuk 18

“Bring your father and your households and come to me. I will give you the best of the land of Egypt and you will eat the fat of the land.”

מ"ה: י"ח

וּקְחוּ אֶת־אֲבֵיכֶם וְאֶת־בְּתֹתֵיכֶם
 וּבָאוּ אֵלַי וְאֶתְנַה לָּכֶם אֶת־טוֹב
 אֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם וְאֶכְלוּ אֶת־חֶלֶב
 הָאָרֶץ:

Often, we can be **suspicious** of strangers. We do not know anything about them, they **look different**, their **language** is foreign to us, their **clothes** may be unlike ours, they have a different **culture**, and so on. [...what is "culture?"]

Yet, none of these is a reason to feel negatively towards them. Indeed, there may be much we can learn from other cultures, from people who have **different experiences** from our own.

We should **welcome people** and help them to feel **comfortable** in their new surroundings. When new children join our school, we must make every effort to **make them happy** and help them to **settle in** quickly. [...how can you do this?]

We can learn this מִיָּדָה even from פְּרָעָה ; look at the פְּסוּקָה above and see how **warmly** he wanted to welcome יוסף's family.

questions

1. Who pleaded for בְּנֵימִן to be able to return to יַעֲקֹב?
2. What reason did יוסף give to his brothers that they should not be angry at themselves?
3. Where was the family going to live?
4. How many people went down to מִצְרַיִם?
5. What reason does רִשְׁ"י give for הוֹדָה going on ahead of the family?

questions

Pirkei Avot - Chapter : 4 Mishnah 1

“Who is rich? He who is happy with his lot.”
 (he who is happy with what he has)

Are you happy with your lot?

פְּרָקֵי אָבוֹת ד': א

אִיזְתָּהוּ עֹשֵׂר הַשְּׂמֵחַ בְּחֻלְקוֹ

שִׂפְתַּי שְׂלוֹמָה!