

Play: Joseph Sold into Egypt (Genesis 37)

Characters:

Israel (or Jacob), the father

Joseph, favorite son of Israel

Brother 1, son of Israel

Brother 2, son of Israel

Reuben, oldest son of Israel

Judah, son of Israel

Narrator 1

Narrator 2

Narrator 3

Stranger

Ishmaelite's, merchants from Gilead heading to Egypt to sell their spicery

Costumes:

Robes, scarves, etc. for costumes (Reuben and Israel have fabric they can rip.)

Ragged clothes (sackcloth for Israel)

Colored coat for Joseph

Red fabric (to look like blood)

Rope to tie up Joseph

4 Chairs

Coins and pouch for Ishmaelite's

Narrator 1: (1) And Jacob dwelt in the land wherein his father was a stranger, in the land of Canaan.

(2) Joseph, being seventeen years old, was feeding the flock with his brethren; and the lad was with the sons of Bilhah, and with the sons of Zilpah, his father's wives: and Joseph brought unto his father their evil report.

[Israel, Joseph, Brother 1, Brother 2, Reuben, and Judah enter]

(3) Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his children, because he was the son of his old age: and he made him a coat of many colors.

[Israel hugs Joseph, then them puts the coat on him, both look happy]

(4) And when his brethren saw that their father loved him more than all his brethren, they hated him, and could not speak peaceably unto him.

(5) And Joseph dreamed a dream, and he told it his brethren: and they hated him yet the more.

(6) And he said unto them:

Joseph: Hear, I pray you, this dream which I have dreamed:

(7) For, behold, we were binding sheaves in the field, and, lo, my sheaf arose, and also stood upright; and, behold, your sheaves stood round about, and made obeisance to my sheaf.

Narrator 2: (8) And his brethren said to him:

Brother 1: Shalt thou indeed reign over us? or shalt thou indeed have dominion over us?

Narrator 2: And they hated him yet the more for his dreams, and for his words.

(9) And he dreamed yet another dream, and told it his brethren, and said,

Joseph: Behold, I have dreamed a dream more; and, behold, the sun and the moon and the eleven stars made obeisance to me.

Narrator 2: (10) And he told it to his father, and to his brethren: and his father rebuked him, and said unto him,

Israel: Shall I and thy mother and thy brethren indeed come to bow down ourselves to thee to the earth?

Narrator 2: (11) And his brethren envied him; but his father observed the saying.

(12) And his brethren went to feed their father's flock in Shechem.

[Brother 1, Brother 2, Reuben, and Judah leave stage]

(13) And Israel said unto Joseph:

Israel: Go, I pray thee, see whether it be well with thy brethren, and well with the flocks; and bring me word again.

[Israel leaves stage, Joseph wanders around looking for someone.

Stranger enters and watches him, then approaches him]

Narrator 3: So he sent him out of the vale of Hebron, and he came to Shechem.

(15) ¶ And a certain man found him, and, behold, he was wandering in the field: and the man asked him, saying,

Stranger: What seekest thou?

Joseph: (16) I seek my brethren: tell me, I pray thee, where they feed their flocks.

Stranger: (17) They are departed hence; for I heard them say, Let us go to Dothan.

Narrator 3: And Joseph went after his brethren, and found them in Dothan.

[Stranger leaves. Brother 1, Brother 2, Reuben, and Judah enter, on opposite side as where Joseph is]

(18) And when they saw him afar off, even before he came near unto them, they a conspired against him to slay him.

(19) And they said one to another:

Brother 2: [in a low voice as if whispering] Behold, this dreamer cometh.

(20) Come now therefore, and let us slay him, and cast him into some pit, and we will say, Some evil beast hath devoured him: and we shall see what will become of his dreams.

Narrator 3: (21) And Reuben heard it, and he delivered him out of their hands; and said:

Reuben: Let us not kill him.

(22) Shed no blood, but cast him into this pit that is in the wilderness, and lay no hand upon him; that he might rid him out of their hands, to deliver him to his father again.

Narrator 1: (23) And it came to pass, when Joseph was come unto his brethren, that they stripped Joseph out of

his coat, his coat of many colors that was on him;

(24) And they took him, and cast him into a pit: and the pit was empty, there was no water in it.

[Joseph walks up to them. Brothers take off his coat, put Joseph in the "pit" (sit him on the floor with 4 chairs around him). Reuben exits.]

(25) And they sat down to eat bread: and they lifted up their eyes and looked, and, behold, a company of Ishmaelite's came from Gilead with their camels bearing spicery and balm and myrrh, going to carry it down to Egypt.

[Ishmaelite's enter on opposite side, pretend to talk to each other, unaware of Joseph and his brothers]

(26) And Judah said unto his brethren,

Judah: What profit is it if we slay our brother, and conceal his blood?

(27) Come, and let us sell him to the Ishmaelite's, and let not our hand be upon him; for he is our brother and our flesh.

Narrator 2: And his brethren were content.

(28) Then there passed by Midianites merchantmen; and they drew and lifted up Joseph out of the pit,

[Brother 1, Brother 2, and Judah lift up Joseph]

and sold Joseph to the Ishmaelite's for twenty pieces of silver: and they brought Joseph into Egypt.

[Ishmaelite's walk up, give coins to Brothers, tie up Joseph and lead him away.
Ishmaelite's and Joseph leave stage left, Brothers leave stage right, excited to see the money, congratulating each other on what they've done.]

(29) And Reuben returned unto the pit; and, behold, Joseph was not in the pit; and he rent his clothes.

[Reuben enters, looks in the pit and finds it empty, looks upset, and rips the cloth]

(30) And he returned unto his brethren, and said:

[Brother 1, Brother 2, and Judah enter]

Reuben: The child is not; and I, whither shall I go?

Narrator 3: (31) And they took Joseph's coat, and killed a kid of the goats, and dipped the coat in the blood;
[Brothers drape red fabric over the colored coat]

(32) And they sent the coat of many colours, and they brought it to their father;

[Israel enters. Brothers walk up to him with the coat covered in red. When Israel sees it he becomes distressed.]

and said, This have we found: know now whether it be thy son's coat or no.

(33) And he knew it, and said:

Israel: It is my son's coat; an evil beast hath devoured him; Joseph is without doubt rent in pieces.

Narrator 1: (34) And Jacob rent his clothes, and put sackcloth upon his loins, and mourned for his son many days.
[Israel rips the cloth, puts on rags, wanders around stage pretending to cry.]

(35) And all his sons and all his daughters rose up to comfort him; but he refused to be comforted:
[Brother 1, Brother 2, Reuben and Judah try to hug Israel, but he pulls away.]

Israel: For I will go down into the grave unto my son mourning.

Narrator 2: Thus his father wept for him. [Israel continues to cover his face and make crying sounds]

(36) And the Midianites sold him into Egypt unto Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh's, and captain of the guard.

The End

Everyone take a bow!