



FEED MY SHEEP

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Israelite Terrorists in Ancient Egypt

The Story of Joseph, Part 25

To recapitulate, the famine in Egypt and adjoining countries is severe. Joseph's (half-) brothers had come back to Egypt a second time to replenish their dwindling supply of food. This time—per the demand of the Vizier of Egypt, who is Joseph—they brought with them Benjamin, the youngest son of Jacob-Israel, the full brother of Joseph.

The account in the book of Genesis recounts how Joseph dined with them and was so moved at the sight of his (now grown) brother, Benjamin, that he hastily departed into a private room where he wept.

Later, Joseph sent the brothers back home along with Benjamin and with all their money restored once again in their sacks, only this time he had his officer place his silver divining cup into Benjamin's sack. Remember that Joseph had confided his plan to Benjamin, and so Benjamin had a little acting job to do when the cup was found in his sack. Subsequently, the brothers are arrested and brought back before the Vizier. Joseph again speaks harshly to them (still using an interpreter) and referring to his silver cup found in Benjamin's sack, he says:

Genesis 44:15 ...What deed is this that ye have done? wot ye not that such a man as I can certainly divine?

The remainder of chapter 44 tells of Judah's offer as surety for Benjamin. Genesis 45 then begins with Joseph revealing his identity to his brothers. But for the past few issues, we have been setting forth the account as found in the book of Jasher because it fills in so many details of this powerful drama, including threats from Judah towards the Vizier and Egypt itself! We will back up two verses in Jasher from our last issue and then continue.

Jasher 54:24 And Joseph answered and said, There is no false judgment in the word that I spoke on account of your brother Joseph, for all of you sold him to the Midianites for twenty pieces of silver, and you all denied it to your father and said unto him, An evil beast has devoured him, Joseph has been torn to pieces.

Ouch! That truth really stings the brothers, especially Judah, the obvious leader of the brothers.

25 And Judah said, Behold the fire of Shem burneth in my heart, now I will burn all your land with fire; and Joseph answered and said, Surely thy sister-in-law Tamar, who killed your sons, extinguished the fire of Shechem.

These very pointed accusations of Judah by Joseph, cause Judah to grow hotter by the minute. He continues his threats.

26 And Judah said, If I pluck out a single hair from my flesh, I will fill all Egypt with its blood.

27 And Joseph answered and said, Such is your custom to do as you did to your brother whom you sold, and you dipped his coat in blood and brought it to your father in order that he might say an evil beast devoured him and here is his blood.

Joseph must have learned all these details from his confidential conversation with Benjamin. Joseph simply will not let up. He is pressing Judah to the breaking point.

28 And when Judah heard this thing he was exceedingly wroth and his anger burned within him, and there was before him in that place a stone, the weight

of which was about four hundred shekels, and Judah's anger was kindled and he took the stone in one hand and cast it to the heavens and caught it with his left hand.

29 And he placed it afterward under his legs, and he sat upon it with all his strength and the stone was turned into dust from the force of Judah.

Is that not reminiscent of modern martial arts masters smashing cement blocks with their fists?

30 And Joseph saw the act of Judah and he was very much afraid, but he commanded Manasseh his son and he also did with another stone like unto the act of Judah, and Judah said unto his brethren, Let not any of you say, this man is an Egyptian, but by his doing this thing he is of our father's family.

This is the *second* time that one of the brothers has declared that such feats are capable of being done only by the family of Abraham. Remember earlier in the story when Simeon was enraged and even Joseph's soldiers were scared to go against him? And so Joseph called Manasseh and he simply used some kind of grip or touch to the nerve points around the collar bone which turned Simeon as passive as a lamb, remember that? Whatever those martial arts techniques were, Joseph has to come up with some kind of answer lest his identity be revealed too soon.

31 And Joseph said, Not to you only is strength given, for we are also powerful men, and why will you boast over us all? and Judah said unto Joseph, Send I pray thee our brother and ruin not thy country this day.

32 And Joseph answered and said unto them, Go and tell your father, an evil beast hath devoured him as you said concerning your brother Joseph.

Oh, my! Joseph really knows how to provoke them!

33 And Judah spoke to his brother Naphtali, and he said unto him, Make haste, go now and number all the streets of Egypt and come and tell me; and Simeon said unto him, Let not this thing be a trouble to thee; now I will go to the mount and take up one large stone from the mount and level it at every one in Egypt, and kill all that are in it.

34 And Joseph heard all these words that his brethren spoke before him, and they did not know that Joseph understood them, for they imagined that he knew not to speak Hebrew.

35 And Joseph was greatly afraid at the words of his brethren lest they should destroy Egypt, and he commanded his son Manasseh, saying, Go now make haste and gather unto me all the inhabitants of Egypt,

and all the valiant men together, and let them come to me now upon horseback and on foot and with all sorts of musical instruments, and Manasseh went and did so.

36 And Naphtali went as Judah had commanded him, for Naphtali was lightfooted as one of the swift stags, and he would go upon the ears of corn and they would not break under him.

37 And he went and numbered all the streets of Egypt, and found them to be twelve, and he came hastily and told Judah, and Judah said unto his brethren, Hasten you and put on every man his sword upon his loins and we will come over Egypt, and smite them all, and let not a remnant remain.

38 And Judah said, Behold, I will destroy three of the streets with my strength, and you shall each destroy one street; and when Judah was speaking this thing, behold the inhabitants of Egypt and all the mighty men came toward them with all sorts of musical instruments and with loud shouting.

39 And their number was five hundred cavalry and ten thousand infantry, and four hundred men who could fight without sword or spear, only with their hands and strength.

40 And all the mighty men came with great storming and shouting, and they all surrounded the sons of Jacob and terrified them, and the ground quaked at the sound of their shouting.

41 And when the sons of Jacob saw these troops they were greatly afraid of their lives, and Joseph did so in order to **terrify** the sons of Jacob to become tranquilized.

This situation is really escalating now. It appears that bloodshed is imminent.

42 And Judah, seeing some of his brethren terrified, said unto them, Why are you afraid whilst the grace of God is with us? and when Judah saw all the people of Egypt surrounding them at the command of Joseph to **terrify** them, only Joseph commanded them, saying, Do not touch any of them.

43 Then Judah hastened and drew his sword, and uttered a loud and bitter scream, and he smote with his sword, and he sprang upon the ground and he still continued to shout against all the people.

44 And when he did this thing the Lord caused the terror of Judah and his brethren to fall upon the valiant men and all the people that surrounded them.

45 And they all fled at the sound of the shouting, and they were terrified and fell one upon the other, and many of them died as they fell, and they all fled from before Judah and his brethren and from before Joseph.

46 And whilst they were fleeing, Judah and his brethren pursued them unto the house of Pharaoh, and

they all escaped, and Judah again sat before Joseph and roared at him like a lion, and gave a great and tremendous shriek at him.

Note that Judah is associated with a lion. The lion became the banner and symbol for the tribe of Judah.

47 And the shriek was heard at a distance, and all the inhabitants of Succoth heard it, and all Egypt quaked at the sound of the shriek, and also the walls of Egypt and of the land of Goshen fell in from the shaking of the earth, and Pharaoh also fell from his throne upon the ground, and also all the pregnant women of Egypt and Goshen miscarried when they heard the noise of the shaking, for they were terribly afraid.

This is not the first occasion in the book of Jasher where such incredible-sounding feats are recorded. Does that mean the book of Jasher is clearly untrustworthy? Only if you also say the same of the Bible, because the Bible itself is filled with seemingly incredible stories and miraculous feats.

Are these feats of the sons of Israel as recorded in Jasher any more incredulous than the three Hebrew young men in the fiery furnace? All the water in Egypt turning to blood? And the rest of the ten plagues? How about marching around Jericho 13 times and then shouting and the walls fall down?

The Bible itself refers to the fearsome power in the tongue, in the human voice, in the spoken word. So did these things literally happen? I don't know, but I am not so quick to dismiss them as hyperbole. And speaking of hyper, remember our studies in hyper-dimensionality from my "Inner Space-Outer Space" series? (See flier enclosed with this mailing.) And all the possibilities that opens up to our thinking?

Remember the examples of sympathetic vibration? of resonance? of soldiers marching across a bridge which can make a bridge collapse? If you have studied Nikola Tesla, you know that he was able to induce vibrations in the earth, so that he could cause earthquakes.

Did the ancient Hebrews know about this science? Indeed, did they know how to use the human voice to induce a resonant vibration in the earth itself to cause an earthquake?

These events did not go unnoticed by the Pharaoh himself. I mean, when somebody shouts so loud that the ground shakes and you fall off your throne, it's time to check out what's going on.

48 And Pharaoh sent word, saying, What is this thing that has this day happened in the land of Egypt? and they came and told him all the things from beginning to end, and Pharaoh was alarmed and he wondered and was greatly afraid.

49 And his fright increased when he heard all these things, and he sent unto Joseph, saying, Thou hast brought unto me the Hebrews to destroy all Egypt; what wilt thou do with that thievish slave? send him away and let him go with his brethren, and let us not perish through their evil, even we, you and all Egypt.

50 And if thou desirest not to do this thing, cast off from thee all my valuable things, and go with them to their land, if thou delightest in it, for they will this day destroy my whole country and slay all my people; even all the women of Egypt have miscarried through their screams; see what they have done merely by their shouting and speaking, moreover if they fight with the sword, they will destroy the land; now therefore choose that which thou desirest, whether me or the Hebrews, whether Egypt or the land of the Hebrews.

Uh-oh! Joseph is in a serious dilemma. The big boss is now making it very difficult for Joseph to control the parameters of the tests he is putting his brothers through. But yet Joseph himself realizes that he cannot keep this up much longer. Already, many people have died in the process.

51 And they came and told Joseph all the words of Pharaoh that he had said concerning him, and Joseph was greatly afraid at the words of Pharaoh and Judah and his brethren were still standing before Joseph indignant and enraged, and all the sons of Jacob roared at Joseph, like the roaring of the sea and its waves.

52 And Joseph was greatly afraid of his brethren and on account of Pharaoh, and Joseph sought a pretext to make himself known unto his brethren, lest they should destroy all Egypt.

At this point, Joseph is really getting a bit anxious. He is well aware that his whole purpose of putting his brothers to these tests may now blow up in his face. The brothers would create even greater destruction in Egypt; Joseph himself would be disgraced and removed from his throne, and the chances of reconciliation with his brothers would be greatly reduced.

So notice now as the story continues, how Joseph tries to have a calm and reasonable conversation with Judah, but then how the tension spirals upward and almost out of control once more.

53 And Joseph commanded his son Manasseh,

and Manasseh went and approached Judah, and placed his hand upon his shoulder, and the anger of Judah was stilled.

There it is again, like fictional *Star Trek* character Spock's Vulcan pinch on the collarbone, right? Indeed, what powerful "touch techniques" were known by these original Israelites?

54 And Judah said unto his brethren, Let no one of you say that this is the act of an Egyptian youth for **this is the work of my father's house.**

One of the themes which emerged from our recent Bible Conference held in Manassas (Greek form of Manasseh), Virginia was that we need to be about our Father's business. Bible students recognize this as relating to the incident when Jesus was twelve years old and was found teaching the Masters in the temple. When his relieved but exasperated mother, Mary, questioned him and asked Him why He was doing this, seeing that she and Joseph had been looking for him for three days, Jesus responded:

Luke 2:49 And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?

Curiously, the word for "business" is not in the Greek text. Other translations give it this way:

Luke 2:49 And He said to them, "Why is it that you were looking for Me? Did you not know that I had to be in My Father's *house*?" [New American Standard]

Nor is the Greek word for "house" in the text.

Luke 2:49 And he said unto them, 'Why {is it} that ye were seeking me? did ye not know that in the things of my Father it behoveth me to be? [Young's Literal Translation]

I like Jay P. Green's *Greek Interlinear New Testament* for the overriding reason that it is based on the Textus Receptus (as is Young's). Green renders it:

Luke 2:49 And He said to them, Why did you look for me? Did you not know that I must be *busy* in the *affairs* of My Father?

Notice the similarity of ideas and words in Jasher 54:54 and Luke 2:49. The ancient, first-generation sons of Jacob-Israel apparently were privy to and privileged to understand some unique techniques in terms of martial arts—to such an extent that the combined acts of the visiting brothers and Joseph's son, Manasseh,

were terrorizing the inhabitants!

The day is coming soon when some of the modern-day descendants of Jacob-Israel (along with others of like Christian faith, called to be overcomers) will exhibit even "greater works," as they commence administering the righteousness of God in the second work of Christ—which is the Joseph work of ruling the world under King Jesus!

Now that the anger of Judah has been quieted by Manasseh's "touch technique," Judah is now emotionally capable of listening to the calm voice of Joseph. (To be continued.)

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