

JACOB: I have everything I need. Let me give you more gifts.

ESAU: I also am very rich and have everything I need.

JACOB: Please, take them.

ESAU: If you insist

(The brothers exit arm in arm.)

LEAH: I love a happy ending.

RACHEL: Let's go get a bagel.

THAT DARN COAT!

VAYAYSHEV

Genesis 37:1-40:23

Cast of Characters

Narrator #1

Narrator #2

Jacob

Joseph

Dan

Levi

Simeon

Reuben

Judah

Potiphar

Potiphar's Wife

Butler

Baker

NARRATOR #1: Ladies and gentlemen, we are pleased to bring you a very special event. Since this week's parashah, Vayayshev, is about Joseph and his brothers, we will now present the world famous, Broadway musical *Joseph and His Amazing Katonet Passim!*

NARRATOR #2: *(Entering quickly.)* You mean his coat of many colors.

NARRATOR #1: Well, we don't know if it was a coat of many colors or of many stripes.

NARRATOR #2: In either case, there must be some mistake. We're not presenting a Broadway musical.

NARRATOR #1: Why not?

NARRATOR #2: Well, first of all, this isn't Broadway.

NARRATOR #1: A minor detail.

NARRATOR #2: We don't even have a piano.

NARRATOR #1: We can hum.

NARRATOR #2: We only have eight minutes in which to present the entire parashah! Have you read Vayayshev? It is an epic adventure, filled with endless drama. There's no way we can perform it all in eight minutes.

NARRATOR #2: We'll see about that! *(To audience.)* Ladies and gentlemen, we are proud to present the story of Joseph and his brothers — the short version — entitled, *That Darn Coat!*

(Jacob enters with Joseph.)

JACOB: Shalom. I'm Jacob. And this is my son Joseph.

JOSEPH: Don't tell anyone, but I'm Dad's favorite.

JACOB: That's because he was born when I was very old.

JOSEPH: It's also because I spy on my ten brothers when they're out in the field. If they don't do their work, I tell Dad.

JACOB: *(To Joseph.)* I don't want anyone to know I favor you. Oh, by the way, I made this coat for you. *(Hands him a multi-colored or striped coat.)*

JOSEPH: Hey, it's a great looking coat. It will go with everything! Thanks, Dad.

JACOB: Don't mention it. Now go spy on your brothers some more.

JOSEPH: *(Points offstage.)* Look, there are some of my brothers now!

(Jacob exits. Dan, Levi, Simeon, Reuben, and Judah enter.)

DAN: Hey, Joseph. Nice coat.

LEVI: Where'd you get it?

JOSEPH: This old thing? Dad made it for me.

SIMEON: Hey, Dad never made me a coat! In fact, he never made me anything!

REUBEN: Me neither! You're his favorite.

JOSEPH: Well now, guys, I wouldn't say that. Hey, I'll let you borrow my coat anytime!

JUDAH: So, Joseph, did you come here to spy on us again?

JOSEPH: Actually, I came to tell you about a dream I had.

DAN: You know something, Joseph, we're really not in the mood.

JOSEPH: You'll like it — it's a good one. I dreamed that we were all out in the field, and we were all binding sheaves of wheat. And then your sheaves bowed down to mine.

JUDAH: *(Not happy.)* Oh, that's a great one, Joseph.

LEVI: What's it supposed to mean? You'll rule over us one day?

JOSEPH: I can't be sure, but you know what they say. If the sheaf fits . . . *(He laughs. They don't.)* Hey, I'll see you all later. I want to tell the rest of the guys about my dream.

LEVI: Oh, I'm sure they'll love it! *(Joseph exits.)*

SIMEON: Can you believe that guy? He used to just annoy me, but now I really hate him.

REUBEN: Hate is a very strong word, Simeon. He is your brother.

SIMEON: Don't remind me.

(Joseph now enters with Jacob.)

JOSEPH: Dad, brothers, come here. I have something to tell all of you.

DAN: Another dream?

JOSEPH: How did you know?

DAN: Lucky guess.

JOSEPH: This one was really cool. I saw the sun and the moon and eleven stars bowing down to me.

LEVI: I'm going to be sick.

JACOB: What did you say, Levi?

LEVI: Nothing, Father.

JACOB: Joseph, are you saying that all of us will one day bow down to you?

JOSEPH: I don't know, Father. I just call 'em as I dream 'em.

JACOB: You shouldn't tell these dreams to your brothers, Joseph. It will only make them angry. Now come along.

(Jacob and Joseph exit.)

SIMEON: Where do you think they're going?

LEVI: Probably to make him a matching scarf and gloves.

DAN: That does it. We have to get rid of him.

NARRATOR #2: And the brothers were so jealous of Joseph that they made a very wicked plan.

JUDAH: I can't take it anymore. Next time he comes around, I say we kill him.

REUBEN: As the oldest brother, I have to say no. That's going too far. Let's just teach him a lesson — by leaving him in a pit for a while. Then he'll see he's no better than we are.

SIMEON: Sounds good to me.

LEVI: Look, here he comes now.

(Joseph enters.)

NARRATOR #1: The brothers tore off Joseph's beautiful coat, and threw him in a deep pit.

(The brothers push Joseph offstage.)

JOSEPH: *(From offstage.)* Ow, that hurts!

NARRATOR #2: Reuben's real plan was to come back later and rescue Joseph.

NARRATOR #1: But before he could, the brothers sold Joseph to some Ishmaelites who brought him to Egypt. The brothers dipped Joseph's torn coat in animal blood and took it to Jacob. *(Jacob enters.)*

DAN: Father, we have bad news. Look! *(They show Jacob the torn coat.)*

JACOB: How terrible! A wild beast took the life of my favorite son. I mean . . . of Joseph. *(He exits.)*

SIMEON: Now, that bragging brother of ours will learn his lesson.

NARRATOR #1: Meanwhile, in Egypt . . .

(Potiphar and his wife enter with Joseph.)

POTIPHAR: Joseph, you are the best servant I ever had.

WIFE: And the cutest . . .

JOSEPH: Oh, Potiphar, it's a pleasure to be a servant to an important Egyptian leader like you.

POTIPHAR: You are very loyal, Joseph. Now excuse me. I must go to an important meeting. Make sure to take care of my wife when I'm gone.

(Potiphar exits. Potiphar's Wife advances toward Joseph.)

WIFE: Joseph . . . sweetie . . .

JOSEPH: Yes, ma'am, what would you like?

WIFE: A kiss. *(She grabs him by the coat. Joseph walks out of it.)*

JOSEPH: No! You are the boss's wife . . .

WIFE: Some servant you are! I hate you! I hate you!

JOSEPH: Hate is a very strong word . . .

POTIPHAR: *(Enters again.)* What is going on here?

WIFE: Joseph tried to kiss me, but I held him off. See I tore off his coat.

JOSEPH: That is not the way it really happened, sir!

POTIPHAR: I'm sorry, Joseph, but I will have to put you in jail!

(Potiphar and his Wife exit. Joseph sits with his head in his hands.)

NARRATOR #1: And so Joseph went to jail. There he met two servants to Pharaoh — a butler and a baker.

NARRATOR #2: The end.

NARRATOR #1: What do you mean, the end? There's still more to go!

NARRATOR #2: I told you, the play could only be eight minutes long. We're already past that!

NARRATOR #1: Okay then, we'll make it fast. The Butler came to Joseph.

BUTLER: *(Enters.)* Joseph, I had a dream. I hear you can interpret dreams.

JOSEPH: I'll do my best! Would you like to hear about my coat first?

BUTLER: Maybe later. Anyway, in my dream, I'm holding three vines, and grapes spring up on them . . . and then I'm holding Pharaoh's cup in my hand . . . and I press the grapes into the cup . . . and it turns to wine. What do you make of it?

JOSEPH: That's an easy one. In three days, Pharaoh will free you and make you his butler again.

BUTLER: Wow. I thought it meant I was thirsty. I like your interpretation better. How can I thank you?

JOSEPH: When you return to the palace, tell Pharaoh about me. Maybe he will free me, too.

BUTLER: I'll see what I can do.

(Butler exits. Baker enters.)

BAKER: Yo, Joseph. I'm Pharaoh's baker. I had a dream, too. There are three baskets on my head, filled with bread. The top one has all kinds of goodies I baked for Pharaoh . . . and birds are eating out of it. Does that mean Pharaoh will spare my life in three days, too?

JOSEPH: In three days something will happen to you, but I'm afraid it's not good news. Pharaoh will not spare your life.

BAKER: Gulp!

(Butler exits.)

NARRATOR #1: Three days later, Joseph's predictions came true. But the Butler forgot to put in a good word for Joseph, and Joseph remained in jail.

NARRATOR #2: The end.

NARRATOR #1: What do you mean, the end? Joseph is still in jail! The story's not over yet!

NARRATOR #2: But the parashah is. You'll have to find out what happens to Joseph in next week's parashah.

NARRATOR #1: I can't wait till next week!

NARRATOR #2: You want a sneak preview? Go home and read the Torah!

NARRATOR #1: Great idea!

NARRATOR #2: So we now conclude this week's parashah, the short version, with these famous last words — "to be continued!"

AS THE TORAH TURNS

MIKAYTZ

Genesis 41:1-44:17

Cast of Characters

Narrator #1

Narrator #2

Narrator #3

Narrator #4

Simeon

Reuben

Joseph

Gad

Asher

Judah

Levi

Naphtali

Girl #1

Girl #2

Receptionist

Dan

Issachar

Benjamin

NARRATOR #1: Welcome to "As the Torah Turns" — the continuing drama that has delighted and inspired audiences for centuries.

NARRATOR #2: Previously on "As the Torah Turns," Joseph and his brothers were not getting along.

(Simeon, Reuven, Gad, Asher, Judah, Levi, and Naphtali enter.)

SIMEON: Here comes Joseph, wearing that fancy schmancy coat of his.

REUVEN: He thinks he's so cool because Dad made it for him.