

TARGUM ONQELOS

Vayehi Mikets – Sipra d'Berita (Genesis) 41:1 – 44:17 – ויהי מקצ

¶ And it was at the end of two years that Pharaoh dreamed, and, behold, he stood by the River. And, behold, there came up from the River seven oxen, pleasing in appearance, and fat-fleshed; and they grazed in the meadow.¹ And, behold, seven other oxen came up from the river after them, evil in appearance, and lean-fleshed; and they stood beside them by the bank of the the river. And the evil-looking and lean-fleshed oxen ate up the seven well-looking and fat ones: and Pharaoh awoke. And he slept, and dreamed a second (time); and, behold, seven ears rose up from one stalk, large and good, and, behold, seven ears, thin, and diseased (or wilted) (with the) east (wind), sprang up after them. And the seven wasted ears devoured the seven large and full ears.

¶ And Pharaoh awoke, and, behold, a dream. And when it was morning his spirit was troubled, and he sent and called all the magicians² of Mizraim, and all the wise men;³ and Pharaoh related the dreams to them, but they could not interpret them to Pharaoh. And the chief of the cup-bearers spoke to Pharaoh, saying, My faults I do remember this day. Pharaoh was displeased with his servants, and gave me into custody at the house of the chief executioner, and the chief baker with me. And we dreamed a dream in one night, I and he, each man according to the interpretation of his dream, we dreamed. And with us there was a Hebrew youth, a servant of the chief executioner; and we recounted to him, and he explained to us our dreams, to each man according to his dream be explained; and according as he had explained to us, so it was: he restored me to my service, and he hanged the other. And Pharaoh sent, and called Joseph, and

made him to hurry from the prison; and he dressed his hair,⁴ and changed his garments, and came to Pharaoh. And Pharaoh said to Joseph, I have dreamed a dream, and there is no one to interpret it. And I have heard of you, saying, that you hear a dream, and interpret it. And Joseph answered Pharaoh, saying, Not from my wisdom, but from before MarYah, will there be an answer of peace to Pharaoh.

¶ And Pharaoh spoke with Joseph, saying, In my dream, behold, I stood upon the bank of the River; and, behold, from the River rose up seven oxen, fat-fleshed and pleasing in appearance, and they grazed in the meadow.⁵ And, behold, seven other oxen came up after them, lean and most evil in appearance, so wanting in flesh, that their like I have not seen in all the land of Mizraim for badness. And the lean oxen and evil ones ate up the seven first fat oxen. And they entered into their stomachs; but it could not be known that they had entered into their stomachs, for their appearance was bad as before; and I awoke. I saw in my dream, and, behold, seven ears of corn arose on one stalk, full and good.

¶ And, behold, seven (other) ears, hard, thin, and blasted (with the) east (wind), sprang up after them. And the thin ears devoured the seven good ears. And I told it to the magicians, but there was no one who could show (the meaning of) it to me. And Joseph answered Pharaoh, The dream of Pharaoh is one. That which MarYah is about to do He has shown to Pharaoh. The seven good oxen are seven years; and the seven good ears of corn are seven years; the dream is one.

¶ And the seven lean and evil oxen which came up after them are seven years; and the seven ears, thin, and blasted with the east wind, are seven years of famine. This is the word which I have spoken to Pharaoh. What MarYah is about to do, He has shown to Pharaoh. Behold, there come seven years of great plenty in all the land of Mizraim.

¶ And after them will arise seven years of famine, and all the plenty in the land of Mizraim will be forgotten, and the famine will consume the people of the land. And plenty will not be known in the land for that famine which will be afterward; for it will be very mighty. And seeing that as the dream was repeated to Pharaoh twice, it is a confirmed thing before MarYah, and MarYah will speedily do it. And now let Pharaoh look out a prudent and wise man, and appoint him over the land of Mizraim. Let Pharaoh do this, and appoint officers (*lit., faithful men*) over the land, and let them sow the land of Mizraim in the seven years of plenty, and collect all the produce of those good years that come, and lay up provision under the hand of Pharaoh's officers, and preserve it in the cities: and it will be provision for the people of the land in the seven years of famine that are coming in the land of Mizraim, that the people of the land may not be consumed by the famine. And the thing was pleasing in the eyes of Pharaoh, and in the eyes of all his servants. And Pharaoh said to his servants, Can we find a man like this, in whom is the spirit of prophecy from MarYah?

¶ And Pharaoh said to Joseph, Since MarYah has made all this known to you, there is none more prudent or wise than you; you shall be appointed over my house, and by your word shall all my people be governed;⁶ only in the throne of this kingdom will I be more honorable than you. And Pharaoh said to Joseph, See, I have appointed you over all the land of Mizraim. And Pharaoh took

off his ring from his hand, and set it upon Joseph's hand, and clothed him in a robe of lawn⁷ (or linen), and put a chain of gold upon his neck. And he made him ride in his own second chariot,⁸ and they proclaimed before him, This is the father of the king;⁹ and he appointed him over all the land of Mizraim. And Pharaoh said to Joseph, I am Pharaoh; and without your word shall no man lift up his hand to hold a weapon, nor his foot to mount a horse, in all the land of Mizraim.

¶ And Pharaoh called the name of Joseph, The man to whom mysteries are revealed.¹⁰ And he gave him Asenath, the daughter of Poti Phera,¹¹ prince of On, to be his wife; and Joseph went forth ruling over the land of Mizraim.

¶ And Joseph was a son of thirty years when he stood before Pharaoh, king of Mizraim. And Joseph went out from before Pharaoh, and passed through all the land of Mizraim.

¶ And the inhabitants of the land collected in the seven years of plenty the provision into granaries. And he collected all the provision of the seven years which was in the land of Mizraim, and laid up the provision in cities, in the midst of each city the provision of the land surrounding it. And Joseph gathered provision as the sand of the sea, exceeding much, until he ceased to number, for it was without number. And to Joseph were born two sons, (before the year of famine came,) which Asenath, daughter of Potiphera, prince (*Heb. priest*) of On, bare to him. And Joseph called the name of the firstborn Menasheh;¹² because MarYah has made me to forget all my labor and all my father's house. And the name of the second he called Eph-ra-im;¹³ because MarYah has made me to increase in the land of my servitude.

¶ And the seven years of plenty which were in the land of Mizraim were completed. And the seven years of famine began to come, as Joseph had said; and the famine was in all the lands, but in all the land of Mizraim there was bread. Yet all the land of Mizraim was famished, and the people cried before Pharaoh for bread: and Pharaoh said to all the Mizraee, Go to Joseph, and what he shall say to you, do.

¶ And the famine was over all the face of the land; and Joseph opened all the granaries in which was the corn, and sold to the Mizraee, and the famine became great in the land of Mizraim. And all the inhabitants of the earth came into Mizraim to purchase corn from Joseph, because the famine was mighty in all the earth.

¶ And Jakob saw that corn was sold in Mizraim, and Jakob said to his sons, Why look you (on each other)?¹⁴ And he said, Behold, I have heard that corn is sold in Mizraim: go down there, and purchase for us from there, and we shall live, and not die. And the ten brothers of Joseph went down to purchase corn from Mizraim; but Benjamin, the brother of Joseph, Jakob sent not with his brothers; for he said, Lest death should befall him. And the sons of Israel (Bene Yisrael) came to purchase corn among them who came; for the famine was in the land of Kenaan. And Joseph, who was ruler over the land, was he who sold the corn to all the people of the earth.

¶ And the brothers of Joseph came, and bowed before him with their faces upon the ground. And Joseph saw his brothers, and knew them, and considered what he should say to them. And he spoke with them severely, and said to them, From what place do you come? And they said, From the land of Kenaan, to purchase corn. And Joseph knew his brothers, but they did not know him. And Joseph remembered the dreams which he had dreamed of them; and he said to them,

You are spies; to see the ruin¹⁵ of the land have you come. And they said, No, ribboni, your servants have come to purchase corn. We are all the sons of one kinsman (*Aram*. גִּבְרִי). Right (or true) (men) are we; your servants are not spies. But he said to them, No, but you have come to see the ruin of the land. And they said, Your servants are twelve brothers, the sons of one kinsman, in the land of Kenaan; and, behold, the youngest is with our father today, and one is not! And Joseph said to them, That is what I have told you, saying, You are spies; by this you shall be proved: by the life of Pharaoh you shall not go from here, until your youngest brother be brought here. Send one of you, and bring your brother; but you shall be bound, and your words shall be proved, whether you have spoken the truth; if not, by the life of Pharaoh, you are spies. And he put them in the house of custody three days.

¶ And Joseph said to them the third day, This do, and live; for I fear before MarYah. If you be true, let one of your brethren be bound in the prison; and go carry the provision which is needed in your house, and bring your youngest brother to me, and your words will be verified, and you shall not die. And they did so.

¶ And they said, a man to his brother, We are truly guilty concerning our brother; that we saw the anguish of his soul, when he implored us, and we would not listen to him: therefore has this distress come upon us.

¶ And Reuben answered them, saying, Did I not tell you, saying, Do not sin against the youth? but you would not listen. Thus, behold, his blood is required. But they did not know that Joseph heard (them); for there was an interpreter between them.

¶ And he turned himself away from them, and wept. And he returned and spoke to them, and took SHEMEON from them, and bound him before their eyes. And Joseph commanded to fill their vessels with corn, and return their money (that of each) man in his sack, and give them food in the way. And he did so by them. And they laid their corn upon their donkeys, and left from there. And one opened his sack to give feed to his donkey at the house of lodging,¹⁶ and saw his money, and, behold, it was in the mouth of his sack; and he said to his brothers, My money is returned, and, behold, it is in my sack. And the knowledge of their hearts failed, and each of them were confounded, saying, What is this which MarYah has done to us?

¶ And they came to Jakob their father in the land of Kenaan, and showed him all that had happened to them, saying, The man, the lord of the country, spoke harshly with us, and dealt with us as spies of the land. And we told him, We are true men, not spies: we are twelve brothers, sons of one father (*Aram. בני אחינח*): one is not, and the youngest is today with our father in the land of Kenaan. And the man, the lord of the country, said to us, By this I shall know that you are true men. Leave one of your brothers with me, and take the corn which is needed in your house, and go, and bring your youngest brother to me, and I shall know that you are not spies: and when you (will be proved to) be true men, I will release your brother to you, and you shall trade in the land.

¶ And it was, as they emptied their sacks, behold, each man's money was bound up in his sack; and when they and their father saw the bundles of their money, they were afraid. And Jakob their father said to them, You have made me desolate; Joseph is not, and SHEMEON is not (here), and Benjamin you would take away; upon me are all these! And Reuben spoke with his

father, saying, You shall put my two children to death if I do not bring him back to you. Deliver him into my hand, and I will return him to you. But he said, My son shall not go down with you; for his brother is dead, and he alone remains; and if death should befall him in the way in which you will go, you will bring down my gray hairs with mourning unto Sheol.

¶ But the famine prevailed in the land. And it was when they had finished eating the corn which they had brought from Mizraim, that their father said to them, Return, and purchase for us a little corn. And Jehuda spoke to him, saying, The man attesting attested to us, saying, You shall not see my face unless your brother be with you. If you will send our brother with us, we will go down and purchase corn (for) you; but if you will not send, we will not go down: for the man told us, You shall not see my face unless your brother is with you.

¶ And Israel said, Why did you do me this evil, in showing the man that you have a brother? And they said, The man asking asked us concerning our family,¹⁷ saying, Is your father still alive? Have you a brother? And we showed him according to the word of these things: how could we know that he would say, Bring your brother to me?

¶ And Jehuda said to Israel his father, Send the youth with me, and let us arise and go, that we may live and not die, we, and you, and our little ones. I will be the pledge for him; of my hand shall you require him; if I do not bring him back to you, and set him before you, let mine be the sin with you all the days. For except we had delayed in this, we might now have returned twice.

¶ And Israel their father said to them, If then it is to be, do this: take of what is praiseworthy¹⁸ in the land in your vessels, and carry down to the man an offering; a little gum, and a little honey, storax and ladanum, nuts and almonds; and silver, two for one take in your hands, even the silver which was returned in the mouth of your sacks take back in your hands; perhaps it was an oversight. And take your brother, and arise, return to the man; and El-Shaddai give you favor before the man, that he may release to you your other brother and Benjamin. And I, when desolated, shall be desolate!

¶ And the men took that offering, and the money two for one took they in their hands; and they took Benjamin, and arose, and went down into Mizraim, and stood before Joseph. And Joseph saw Benjamin with them; and he said to him who was appointed over his house, Bring the men into the house, and kill a killing¹⁹ and prepare; for the men shall eat with me at dinner. And the man did as Joseph had said; and the man brought the men into Joseph's house.

¶ And the men were afraid because they were brought into the house of Joseph; and said, It is on account of the money that was returned in our baggage at first, that we are brought in, that he might domineer over us,²⁰ and find occasion against us, and take possession of us as slaves, and seize upon our donkeys.

¶ And they drew near the man who was set over Joseph's house, and spoke with him at the gate of the house, and said, We entreat my lord (to hear us). Descending we came down at first to buy corn.

¶ And it was while we were at the resting-place, we opened our baggage, and, behold, a man's silver was in the mouth of the sack; the silver in its weight. But we have returned it in our hand.

And other silver have we brought in our hand to purchase corn. We did not know who put the silver in our baggage.

¶ And he said, Peace be to you: fear not; your Alaha, and the Alaha of your father, gave you treasure in your bags; your money came to me. And he brought out SHEMEON to them. And the man brought the men into Joseph's house, and gave water, and they washed their feet, and he gave feed for their donkeys. And they made ready the offering against the entrance of Joseph to dinner: for they had heard that there they were to eat bread.

¶ And Joseph entered the house, and they brought to him the offering which was in their hands into the house; and they bowed to him upon the ground. And he saluted them,²¹ and said, Is your father well, the old man you spoke of? Is he still alive? And they said, It is well with your servant our father, he is still alive; and they bowed and worshiped.

¶ And he lifted up his eyes, and saw Benjamin his brother, the son of his mother; and he said, Is this your youngest brother of whom you spoke to me? And he said, Mercy from MarYah be upon you, my son.²² And Joseph hurried, for he was stirred with great emotion from deep within (*Etheridge, "for his bowels were commoved over his brother"*), and he sought (where) to weep; and he entered into the chamber, the place of sleeping, and wept there.

¶ And he washed his face, and came out, and was comforted, and said, Put on bread; and they set for him alone, and for them alone, and for the Mizraee who ate with him, alone. For the Mizraee might not eat bread with the Hivraee, because the animals that the Mizraee worshiped the Hivraee did eat.

¶ And they reclined before him, the chief according to his chiefship, and the less according to his minority; and the men wondered, each man at his companion. And portions were brought from him, and set before them, and greater was Benjamin's portion than the portions of all five portions of the others. And they drank and were intoxicated with him.²³

¶ And Joseph commanded the steward of his house, saying, Fill the men's sacks with corn as much as they can carry, and put each man's money in the mouth of his baggage. And put my cup, the silver cup, in the mouth of the youngest one's baggage, and his purchase-money. And he did according to Joseph's word which he spoke.

¶ The morning lightened, and the men were sent away, they and their donkeys. They had not gone far from the city, when Joseph said to him who was set over his house, Arise, follow after the men, and overtake them, and say to them, Why have you rendered evil for good? Is it not this from which my lord drinks, and, behold, by which inquiring he inquires?²⁴ You have done the thing that is evil. And he overtook them, and spoke with them these words. And they said, Why does my lord speak these words? Be it far from your servants to do according to this thing! Behold, the money which we found in the mouth

of our baggages we brought to you again from the land of Kenaan; how then should we steal from the house of your lord vessels of silver, or vessels of gold? With whomsoever of your servants it is found, let him die; and we also will be servants to my lord. And he said, According to your words, so let it be. With whomever it is found, he shall be my servant, but you will be acquitted. And they made haste, and brought down every man his baggage to the ground; and every man opened his baggage. And he searched, beginning with the greatest and finishing with the least; and the chalice was found in the baggage of Benjamin. And they rent their clothes, and loaded every man his donkey, and returned to the city. And Jehuda entered and his brothers into Joseph's house, for he was still there; and they fell before him on the ground. And Joseph said to them, What work is this which you have done? Did you not know that a man like me divining can divine? And Jehuda said to him, What shall we say to my lord? What shall we speak? How shall we be justified? Before MarYah there is sin found in your servants. Behold, we are the servants of my lord; we also and he in whose hand the chalice has been found. But he said, Far be it from me to do so: the man in whose hand the chalice has been found shall be my servant; but go up in peace to your father.

Notes

¹ Or, "sedge."

² Harashee.

³ Hakimaha.

⁴ Vesafir-attonsus est.

⁵ Or, "sedge."

⁶ Sam. Vers. "be fed."

⁷ Butz byssus.

⁸ Sam. Vers. "double chariot."

⁹ Deen aba lemalka.

¹⁰ Sam Vers. Temirithi gala, "The Revealer of mysteries."

¹¹ Sam. Vers. "the daughter of the Kohen Potiphera."

¹² From nashah, "to forget."

¹³ From pharah, "to be fruitful."

¹⁴ Lama tithchazun. *Jewish Publication Society Tanakh*, 1917 ed, "Why do you look one upon another?"

¹⁵ Sam. Vers. "the shame of the land."

¹⁶ Beth mebatha.

¹⁷ "Our generation."

¹⁸ Medimshabach. Sam Vers. "celebrated."

¹⁹ Or, "a victim," niksatha. *Jewish Publication Society Tanakh*, 1917 ed, "kill the beasts, and prepare the meat"

²⁰ Sam. Vers. "lord it over us."

²¹ Lit. "asked for their peace."

²² Sam. Vers. "Elohim be propitious to thee, my son."

²³ Lit. "were drunken." Sam Vers. "were heavy."

²⁴ Badaqa mebadiq.

Glossary

El Shaddai. Hebrew, God Almighty

Hivraee. Hebrews.

MarYah. The Lord Yah. Yahweh. מריה

Mizraee. Egyptian, Egyptians

Mizraim. Egypt

Ribboni. my lord, master

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