

Brothers and husbands: Jacob's Warring Sons

Rachel Sharansky Danziger * December 7th 2021 * Bereshit: The Birthplace of Human Relationships #9

1: Love and hate

Genesis 37:1-4

(1) Now Jacob was settled in the land where his father had sojourned, the land of Canaan. (2) This, then, is the line of Jacob:

At seventeen years of age, Joseph tended the flocks with his brothers, as a helper to the sons of his father's wives Bilhah and Zilpah. And Joseph brought bad reports of them to their father. (3) Now Israel loved Joseph best of all his sons, for he was the child of his old age; and he had made him an ornamented tunic. (4) And when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than any of his brothers, they hated him so that they could not speak a friendly word to him.

בראשית ל"ז:א-ד'

(א) וישב יעקב בארץ מגורי אביו בארץ כנען. (ב) אלה תלדות יעקב יוסף בן־שבע־עשרה שנה הלה רעה את־אחיו בצאן והוא נער את־בני בלהה ואת־בני זלפה נשי אביו ויבא יוסף את־דבתם רעה אל־אביהם. (ג) וישאל אהב את־יוסף מכל־בניו כִּי־בִזְקֵנִים הוא לו ועשה לו כתנת פסים. (ד) ויראו אחיו כִּי־אתו אהב אביהם מכל־אחיו וישנאו אתו ולא יכלו דברו לשלם:

2: Fathers and sons

Genesis 22:1-8

(1) Some time afterward, God put Abraham to the test. He said to him, "Abraham," and he answered, "Here I am." (2) And He said, "Take your son, your favored one, Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the heights that I will point out to you." (3) So early next morning, Abraham saddled his ass... (4) On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place from afar... (7) Then Isaac said to his father Abraham, "Father!" And he answered, "Yes, my son." And he said, "Here are the firestone and the wood; but where is the sheep for the burnt offering?" (8) And Abraham said, "God will see to the sheep for His burnt offering, my son." And the two of them walked on together.

בראשית כ"ב:א'-ח'

(א) ויהי אחר הדברים האלה והאלהים נסה את־אברהם ויאמר אליו אברהם ויאמר הֲנִנִי. (ב) ויאמר קח־נָא את־בְּנֶךָ את־יְחִידְךָ אֲשֶׁר־אֹהֶבְתָּ אֶת־יִצְחָק וְלֶהֱלֶךְ אֶל־אֶרֶץ הַמֹּרִיָּה וְהַעֲלֵהוּ שָׁם לְעֹלָה עַל אֶחָד הַהָרִים אֲשֶׁר אָמַר אֵלֶיךָ. (ג) וישלם אברהם בבקר ויחבש את־חמרו... (ד) ביום השלישי וישא אברהם את־עֵינָיו וירא את־הַמָּקוֹם מְרֻחָק... (ז) ויאמר יצחק אל־אברהם אביו ויאמר אבי ויאמר הֲנִנִי בְנִי ויאמר הִנֵּה הָאֵשׁ וְהַעֲצִים וְאִיֶּה הַשֶּׁה לְעֹלָה. (ח) ויאמר אברהם אלהים יראה־לָנוּ הַשֶּׁה לְעֹלָה בְנִי וילכו שניהם יחדו:

Genesis 37:13-14

(13) Israel said to Joseph, "Your brothers are pasturing at Shechem. Come, I will send you to them." He answered, "I am ready." (14) And he said to him, "Go and see how your brothers are and how the flocks are faring, and bring me back word." So he sent him from the valley of Hebron. When he reached Shechem,

בראשית ל"ז:י"ג-י"ד

(יג) ויאמר ישראל אל־יוסף הלא אחיה רעים בשלם לכה ואשלחה אליהם ויאמר לו הֲנִנִי. (יד) ויאמר לו לֵךְ־נָא ראה את־שלום אחיה ואת־שלום הצאן והשבני דבר וישלחהו מעמק חברון ויבא שכמה:

3: Cloths, again

Genesis 3:7-8

(7) Then the eyes of both of them were opened and they perceived that they were naked; and they sewed together fig leaves and made themselves loincloths. (8) They heard the sound of the LORD God moving about in the garden at the breezy time of day; and the man and his wife hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

בראשית ג'ז-ח

(ז) וַתִּפְקַחְנָה עֵינֵי שְׁנֵיהֶם וַיֵּדְעוּ כִּי עֲרֻמָּם הֵם וַיִּתְּפְרוּ עֲלֵהָ תְאֵנָה וַיַּעֲשׂוּ לָהֶם חִגְרֹת: (ח) וַיִּשְׁמְעוּ אֶת-קוֹל יְהוָה אֱלֹהִים מֵתְהַלֵּךְ בְּגֵן עֵדֶן הַיּוֹם וַיִּתְחַבְּאוּ הָאָדָם וְאִשְׁתּוֹ מִפְּנֵי יְהוָה אֱלֹהִים בְּתוֹךְ עֵץ הַגֵּן:

4. The brothers' "other"

Genesis 37:5-11

(5) Once Joseph had a dream which he told to his brothers; and they hated him even more. (6) He said to them, "Hear this dream which I have dreamed: (7) There we were binding sheaves in the field, when suddenly my sheaf stood up and remained upright; then your sheaves gathered around and bowed low to my sheaf." (8) His brothers answered, "Do you mean to reign over us? Do you mean to rule over us?" And they hated him even more for his talk about his dreams. (9) He dreamed another dream and told it to his brothers, saying, "Look, I have had another dream: And this time, the sun, the moon, and eleven stars were bowing down to me." (10) And when he told it to his father and brothers, his father berated him. "What," he said to him, "is this dream you have dreamed? Are we to come, I and your mother and your brothers, and bow low to you to the ground?" (11) So his brothers were wrought up at him, and his father kept the matter in mind.

בראשית ל"ז:ה-יא

(ה) וַיִּחְלֶם יוֹסֵף חֲלֹם וַיַּגִּד לְאָחָיו וַיּוֹסְפוּ עוֹד שָׁנָא אֹתוֹ: (ו) וַיֹּאמֶר אֲלֵיהֶם שְׁמְעוּ-נָא הַחֲלֹם הַזֶּה אֲשֶׁר חָלַמְתִּי: (ז) וְהִנֵּה אֲנִי חֹבֵט מֵאֲלֵמִים אֲלֵמִים בְּתוֹךְ הַשָּׂדֶה וְהִנֵּה קָמָה אֲלֵמְתִי וְגַם-נִצְבָּה וְהִנֵּה תִסְבִּינָהּ אֲלֵמְתֵיכֶם וַתִּשְׁתַּחֲוּוּן לְאֵלֵמְתִי: (ח) וַיֹּאמְרוּ לוֹ אָחָיו הַמְלֵךְ תִּמְלֹךְ עָלֵינוּ אִם-מִשׁוֹל תִּמְשָׁל בָּנוּ וַיּוֹסְפוּ עוֹד שָׁנָא אֹתוֹ עַל-חֲלֹמְתוֹ וְעַל-דִּבְרָיו: (ט) וַיִּחְלֶם עוֹד חֲלֹם אַחֵר וַיִּסְפֹּר אֹתוֹ לְאָחָיו וַיֹּאמֶר הִנֵּה חָלַמְתִּי חֲלֹם עוֹד וְהִנֵּה הַשָּׁמֶשׁ וְהַיָּרֵחַ וְאַחַד עָשָׂר כּוֹכָבִים מִשְׁתַּחֲוּוּם לִי: (י) וַיִּסְפֹּר אֶל-אָבִיו וְאֶל-אָחָיו וַיַּגְעֲרֻבוּ אֲבִיו וַיֹּאמֶר לֹא מֶה הַחֲלֹם הַזֶּה אֲשֶׁר חָלַמְתָּ הֲבֹא נְבוֹא אֲנִי וְאִמִּי וְאָחֶיךָ לְהִשְׁתַּחֲוֹת לָךְ אֶרְצָה: (יא) וַיִּקְנְאוּ-בּוֹ אָחָיו וְאָבִיו שָׁמַר אֶת-הַדְּבָר:

Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik, *Vision and Leadership*,6:

The hate which he aroused in his brothers was mainly due to the fact that he stood out among them. He was distinct and different; in the pastoral, nomadic, and carefree community where he was raised, his actions were peculiar. His contemporaries couldn't understand when he spoke of a different economy – agriculture – and of people who did not wander from spot to spot... The shepherds heard in amazement this fantastic story... They were taken aback not so much by the fact that he saw himself as the central figure and master, but by the very story that placed himself and them within a different society, not a pastoral but an agricultural one. (6)

5: The torn tunic

Genesis 37:18-35

(18) They saw him from afar, and before he came close to them they conspired to kill him. (19) They said to one another, "Here comes that dreamer! (20) Come now, let us kill him and throw him into one of the pits; and we can say, 'A savage beast devoured him.' We shall see what comes of his dreams!" (21) But when Reuben heard it, he tried to save him from them. He said, "Let us not take his life."... (23) When Joseph came up to his brothers, they stripped Joseph of his tunic, the ornamented tunic that he was wearing, (24) and took him and cast him into the pit. The pit was empty; there was no water in it. (25) Then they sat down to a meal. Looking up, they saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead, their camels bearing gum, balm, and ladanum to be taken to Egypt. (26) Then Judah said to his brothers, "What do we gain by killing our brother and covering up his blood? (27) Come, let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, but let us not do away with him ourselves. After all, he is our brother, our own flesh." His brothers agreed... (31) Then they took Joseph's tunic, slaughtered a kid, and dipped the tunic in the blood. (32) They had the ornamented tunic taken to their father, and they said, "We found this. Please examine it; is it your son's tunic or not?" (33) He recognized it, and said, "My son's tunic! A savage beast devoured him! Joseph was torn by a beast!" (34) Jacob rent his clothes, put sackcloth on his loins, and observed mourning for his son many days. (35) All his sons and daughters sought to comfort him; but he refused to be comforted, saying, "No, I will go down mourning to my son in Sheol." Thus his father bewailed him.

Esther 3:15

(15) The couriers went out posthaste on the royal mission, and the decree was proclaimed in the fortress Shushan. The king and Haman sat down to feast, but the city of Shushan was dumfounded.

בראשית ל"ז:י"ח-ל"ה

(יח) ויראו אתו מרחק ובטרם יקרב אליהם ויתנפלו אתו להמיתו: (יט) ויאמרו איש אל-אחיו הנה בעל החלמות הלזה בא: (כ) ועתה ו לכו ונהרגוהו ונשליכוהו באחד הבורות ואמרנו חיה רעה אכלתהו ונראה מה יהיו חלמתיו: (כא) וישמע ראובן ויצלהו מידם ויאמר לך נכנו נפש... (כג) ויהי כאשר-בא יוסף אל-אחיו ויפשיטו את-יוסף את-כתנתו את-כתנת הפסים אשר עליו: (כד) ויקחהו וישלכו אתו הבורה והבור רק אין בו מים: (כה) וישבו לאכל לחם וישאו עיניהם ויראו והנה ארבתת ישמעאלים באה מגלעד וגמליהם נשאים נכאת וצרי ולט הולכים להוריד מצרמה: (כו) ויאמר יהודה אל-אחיו מה בצע פי נהרג את-אחינו וכסינו את-דמו: (כז) לכו ונמכרונו לישמעאלים וידנו אל-תהיבו כיי-אחינו בשרגו הוא וישמעו אחיו... (לא) ויקחו את-כתנת יוסף וישחטו שעיר עזים ויטבלו את-הכתנת בדם: (לב) וישלחו את-כתנת הפסים ויביאו אל-אביהם ויאמרו זאת מצאנו הכרנא הכתנת בנה הוא אם-לא: (לג) ויכירה ויאמר כתנת בני חיה רעה אכלתהו טרף טרף יוסף: (לד) ויקרע יעקב שמלתיו וישם שק במתניו ויתאבל על-בני ימים רבים: (לה) ויקמו כל-בניו וכל-בנותיו לנחמו וימאו להתנחם ויאמר כיי-ארד אל-בני אבל שאלה ויבה אתו אביו:

אסתר ג:ט"ו

(טו) הרצים יצאו דחופים בדבר המלה והדת נתנה בשושן הבירה והמלה והמו ישבו לשותות והעיר שושן נבוכה: {ס}

6: The dress-up

Genesis 38:14-19

(14) So she took off her widow's garb, covered her face with a veil, and, wrapping herself up, sat down at the entrance to Enaim, which is on the road to Timnah; for she saw that Shelah was grown up, yet she had not been given to him as wife.

(15) When Judah saw her, he took her for a harlot; for she had covered her face. (16) So he turned aside to her by the road and said, "Here, let me sleep with you"—for he did not know that she was his daughter-in-law. "What," she asked, "will you pay for sleeping with me?" (17) He replied, "I will send a kid from my flock." But she said, "You must leave a pledge until you have sent it." (18) And he said, "What pledge shall I give you?" She replied, "Your seal and cord, and the staff which you carry." So he gave them to her and slept with her, and she conceived by him.

(19) Then she went on her way. She took off her veil and again put on her widow's garb.

בראשית ל"ח:י"ד-י"ט

(יד) ותסר בגדי אלמנותה מעליה ותכס בצעיף ותתעלה ותשב בפתח עינים אשר על-דרך תמנתה כי ראתה כפי-גדל שלה והוא לא-נתנה לו לאשה.

(טו) ויראה יהודה ויחשבה לזונה כי כסתה פניה. (טז) ויט אליה אל-הדרך ויאמר הבה-נא אבוא אליך כי לא ידע כי כלתו הוא ותאמר מה-תתן-לי כי תבוא אלי. (יז) ויאמר אנכי אשלח גדי-עזים מן-הצאן ותאמר אם-תתן ערבון עד שילחך. (יח) ויאמר מה הערבון אשר אתן-לך ותאמר חתמה ופתילה ומטה אשר בידך ויתן-לה ויבא אליה ותהר לו.

(יט) ותקם ותלה ותסר צעיפה מעליה ותלבש בגדי אלמנותה.

7: The discarded tunic

Genesis 39:12-16

(12) she caught hold of him by his garment and said, "Lie with me!" But he left his garment in her hand and got away and fled outside. (13) When she saw that he had left it in her hand and had fled outside, (14) she called out to her servants and said to them, "Look, he had to bring us a Hebrew to dally with us! This one came to lie with me; but I screamed loud. (15) And when he heard me screaming at the top of my voice, he left his garment with me and got away and fled outside." (16) She kept his garment beside her, until his master came home.

בראשית ל"ט:י"ב-ט"ז

(יב) ותתפשטהו בבגדו לאמר שכבה עמי ויעזב בגדו בידה ויגס ויצא החוצה. (יג) ויהי כראותה כפי-עזב בגדו בידה ויגס החוצה. (יד) ותקרא לאנשי ביתה ותאמר להם לאמר ראו הביא לנו איש עברי לצחק בנו בא אלי לשכב עמי ואקרא בקול גדול. (טו) ויהי כשמעו כיהרימתי קולי ואקרא ויעזב בגדו אצלי ויגס ויצא החוצה. (טז) ותנח בגדו אצלה עד-בוא אדניו אל-ביתו.

8: Enter compassion

Genesis 42:8

(8) For though Joseph recognized his brothers, they did not recognize him.

בראשית מ"ב:ח'

(ח) וַיִּכַּר יוֹסֵף אֶת־אֶחָיו
וְהֵם לֹא הִכִּירוּהוּ:

Rashi on Genesis 42:8:3

A Midrashic explanation is: ויכר יוסף את אחיו
JOSEPH RECOGNISED HIS BRETHREN —

Now that they were in his power he recognised them as his brothers and had pity on them, והם but when he fell into their power, "they did not recognize him" as their brother, by acting towards him in brotherly manner (Genesis Rabbah 91:7).

רש"י על בראשית

מ"ב:ח':ג'

ומ"א ויכר יוסף את אחיו
כְּשֶׁנִּמְסְרוּ בְּיָדוֹ הִכִּיר שְׁהֵם
אֶחָיו וְרַחַם עֲלֵיהֶם, וְהֵם
לֹא הִכִּירוּהוּ כְּשֶׁנִּפְלַ בְּיָדָם
לְנֶהֱג בּוֹ אַחֻוּה:

Genesis 42:21-24

(21) They said to one another, "Alas, we are being punished on account of our brother, because we looked on at his anguish, yet paid no heed as he pleaded with us. That is why this distress has come upon us." (22) Then Reuben spoke up and said to them, "Did I not tell you, 'Do no wrong to the boy'? But you paid no heed. Now comes the reckoning for his blood." (23) They did not know that Joseph understood, for there was an interpreter between him and them. (24) He turned away from them and wept. But he came back to them and spoke to them; and he took Simeon from among them and had him bound before their eyes.

בראשית מ"ב:כ"א-כ"ד

(כא) וַיֹּאמְרוּ אִישׁ אֶל־אֶחָיו אֲבָל־
אֲשַׁמִּים | אֲנַחְנוּ עַל־אֶחָינוּ אֲשֶׁר רָאִינוּ
צָרַת נַפְשׁוֹ בְּהִתְחַנְּנוּ אֵלֵינוּ וְלֹא שָׁמְעֵנוּ
עַל־כֵּן בָּאָה אֵלֵינוּ הַצָּרָה הַזֹּאת: (כב)
וַיַּעַן רְאוּבֵן אֶתְּם לֵאמֹר הֲלוֹא אָמַרְתִּי
אֵלֵיכֶם | לֹא־תַחַטְּאוּ בְּיַלְד וְלֹא
שָׁמַעְתֶּם וְגַם־דָּמּוּ הַנֶּה גְּדֹרֶשׁ: (כג)
וְהֵם לֹא יָדְעוּ כִּי שָׁמַע יוֹסֵף כִּי הִמְלִיץ
בֵּינְתָם: (כד) וַיִּסַּב מֵעַלֵיהֶם וַיִּבֶן וַיָּשָׁב
אֲלֵהֶם וַיְדַבֵּר אֲלֵהֶם וַיִּקַּח מֵאֶתְּם אֶת־
שִׁמְעוֹן וַיִּאָּסֶר אֹתוֹ לְעֵינֵיהֶם:

9: Taking a stand

Genesis 44:18-34

(18) Then Judah went up to him and said, “Please, my lord, let your servant appeal to my lord, and do not be impatient with your servant, you who are the equal of Pharaoh. (19) My lord asked his servants, ‘Have you a father or another brother?’ (20) We told my lord, ‘We have an old father, and there is a child of his old age, the youngest; his full brother is dead, so that he alone is left of his mother, and his father dotes on him.’ (21) Then you said to your servants, ‘Bring him down to me, that I may set eyes on him.’ (22) We said to my lord, ‘The boy cannot leave his father; if he were to leave him, his father would die.’ (23) But you said to your servants, ‘Unless your youngest brother comes down with you, do not let me see your faces.’ (24) When we came back to your servant my father, we reported my lord’s words to him. (25) “Later our father said, ‘Go back and procure some food for us.’ (26) We answered, ‘We cannot go down; only if our youngest brother is with us can we go down, for we may not show our faces to the man^a unless our youngest brother is with us.’ (27) Your servant my father said to us, ‘As you know, my wife bore me two sons. (28) But one is gone from me, and I said: Alas, he was torn by a beast! And I have not seen him since. (29) If you take this one from me, too, and he meets with disaster, you will send my white head down to Sheol in sorrow.’ (30) “Now, if I come to your servant my father and the boy is not with us—since his own life is so bound up with his— **(31) when he sees that the boy is not with us, he will die, and your servants will send the white head of your servant our father down to Sheol in grief.** (32) Now your servant has pledged himself for the boy to my father, saying, ‘If I do not bring him back to you, I shall stand guilty before my father forever.’ **(33) Therefore, please let your servant remain as a slave to my lord instead of the boy, and let the boy go back with his brothers.** (34) For how can I go back to my father unless the boy is with me? Let me not be witness to the woe that would overtake my father!”

בראשית מ"ד:י"ח-ל"ד

(יח) וַיֵּלֶךְ אֵלָיו יְהוּדָה וַיֹּאמֶר־בִּי אֲדֹנָי
 יְדַבֵּר־נָא עִבְדְּךָ דְבַר בְּאָזְנֵי אֲדֹנָי וְאַל־
 יַחַר אַפֶּיךָ בְּעַבְדְּךָ כִּי כַמֹּה כִּפְרַעְיָה׃
 (יט) אֲדֹנָי שְׂאֵל אֶת־עַבְדְּךָ לְאֹמֶר
 הֲיִשְׁלַחְכֶם אֵב אוֹ־אָח׃ (כ) וַנֹּאמֶר־אֵל־
 אֲדֹנָי יִשְׁלַחְנוּ אֵב וְזֹו וְיִלְד וְזִנִּים קָטָן
 וְאֶחָיו מִתּוֹ וַיִּתֵּר הוּא לְבֵדוֹ לְאִמּוֹ
 וְאֶבְיוֹ אֶהְבּוּ׃ (כא) וַתֹּאמֶר־אֵל־עַבְדְּךָ
 הוֹרְדֵהוּ אֵלָי וְאֲשִׁימָה עֵינַי עָלָיו׃ (כב)
 וַנֹּאמֶר־אֵל־אֲדֹנָי לֹא־יִוָּכַל הַנְּעַר לְעֹזֵב
 אֶת־אָבִיו וְעֹזֵב אֶת־אָבִיו וּמָת׃ (כג)
 וַתֹּאמֶר־אֵל־עַבְדְּךָ אִם־לֹא יֵרָד אֶחֱיֶכֶם
 הַקָּטָן אֶתְכֶם לֹא תִסְפּוּן לִרְאוֹת פָּנָי׃
 (כד) וַיְהִי־כִי עָלִינוּ אֶל־עַבְדְּךָ אָבִי
 וַנִּגְדַּל־לוֹ אֶת דְּבַר־יְהוָה אֲדֹנָי׃ (כה) וַיֹּאמֶר
 אָבִינוּ שְׁבוּ שְׁבוּ וְלָנוּ מַעֲט־אֶכֶל׃ (כו)
 וַנֹּאמֶר לֹא נוּכַל לָרֶדֶת אִם־יֵשׁ אֶחָיו
 הַקָּטָן אִתָּנוּ וְיֵרְדוּנוּ כִּי־לֹא נוּכַל לִרְאוֹת
 פָּנָי הָאֵלִשׁ וְאֶחָיו הַקָּטָן אֵינְנוּ אִתָּנוּ׃
 (כז) וַיֹּאמֶר עַבְדְּךָ אָבִי אֵלֵינוּ אֶתֶם
 יַדְעֶתֶם כִּי שְׁנַיִם יָלְדָה־לִּי אִשְׁתִּי׃ (כח)
 וַיֵּצֵא הָאֶחָד מֵאִתִּי וְאֹמֶר אֵךְ טָרַף טָרַף
 וְלֹא רָאִיתִיו עַד־הַנְּהַה׃ (כט) וּלְקַחְתֶּם
 גַּם־אֶת־זֶה מֵעַם פָּנָי וְקָרְהוּ אֶסְנוֹן
 וְהוֹרְדְתֶם אֶת־שִׁיבְתִי בְרַעְיָה שְׂאֵלָה׃
 (ל) וְעַתָּה כִּבְאֵל־אֵל־עַבְדְּךָ אָבִי וְהַנְּעַר
 אֵינְנוּ אִתָּנוּ וְנִפְשׁוּ קִשְׁוֹרָה בְּנִפְשׁוֹ׃
 (לא) וְהִלָּה כִּרְאוֹתֵנוּ כִּי־אֵינוּ הַנְּעַר וּמָת
 וְהוֹרִידוּ עַבְדְּךָ אֶת־שִׁיבְתִי עַבְדְּךָ
 אָבִינוּ כִּיגֹוֹן שְׂאֵלָה׃ (לב) כִּי עַבְדְּךָ
 עָרַב אֶת־הַנְּעַר מֵעַם אָבִי לְאֹמֶר אִם־
 לֹא אָבִיאֲנוּ אֵלָיָה וְחִטָּאתִי לְאָבִי כֹל־
 הַיָּמִים׃ (לג) וְעַתָּה יִשְׁב־נָא עַבְדְּךָ
 תַּחַת הַנְּעַר עֹבֵד לְאֲדֹנָי וְהַנְּעַר יַעַל
 עִם־אֶחָיו׃ (לד) כִּי־אִיָּה אֶעֱלֶה אֶל־
 אָבִי וְהַנְּעַר אֵינְנוּ אִתִּי כִּי אֶרְאֶה בְרַע
 אֲשֶׁר יִמְצָא אֶת־אָבִי׃

10: The opened gates

Genesis 45:1-3

(1) Joseph could no longer control himself before all his attendants, and he cried out, "Have everyone withdraw from me!" So there was no one else about when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. (2) His sobs were so loud that the Egyptians could hear, and so the news reached Pharaoh's palace. (3) Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still well?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dumfounded were they on account of him.

Genesis 45:4-15

(4) Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come forward to me." And when they came forward, he said, "I am your brother Joseph, he whom you sold into Egypt. (5) Now, do not be distressed or reproach yourselves because you sold me hither; it was to save life that God sent me ahead of you. (6) It is now two years that there has been famine in the land, and there are still five years to come in which there shall be no yield from tilling. (7) God has sent me ahead of you to ensure your survival on earth, and to save your lives in an extraordinary deliverance. (8) So, it was not you who sent me here, but God; and He has made me a father to Pharaoh, lord of all his household, and ruler over the whole land of Egypt. (9) "Now, hurry back to my father and say to him: Thus says your son Joseph, 'God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me without delay. (10) You will dwell in the region of Goshen, where you will be near me—you and your children and your grandchildren, your flocks and herds, and all that is yours. ..(12) You can see for yourselves, and my brother Benjamin for himself, that it is indeed I who am speaking to you. (13) And you must tell my father everything about my high station in Egypt and all that you have seen; and bring my father here with all speed." (14) With that he embraced his brother Benjamin around the neck and wept, and Benjamin wept on his neck. (15) He kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; only then were his brothers able to talk to him.

בראשית מ"ה:א-ג'

(א) וְלֹא־יָכַל יוֹסֵף לְהִתְאַפֵּק לְכָל הַנֹּצְבִים עָלָיו וַיִּקְרָא הוֹצִיאוּ כָל־אִישׁ מִעָלָי וְלֹא־עָמַד אִישׁ אִתּוֹ בְּהִתְוַדַּע יוֹסֵף אֶל־אָחָיו: (ב) וַיִּתֵּן אֶת־קִלְוֹ בְּבִכְיָו וַיִּשְׁמְעוּ מִצָּרִים וַיִּשְׁמַע בֵּית פַּרְעֹה: (ג) וַיֹּאמֶר יוֹסֵף אֶל־אָחָיו אֲנִי יוֹסֵף הָעוֹד אָבִי חַי וְלֹא־יָכְלוּ אָחָיו לַעֲנוֹת אֹתוֹ כִּי נִבְהַלּוּ מִפְּנָיו:

בראשית מ"ה:ד'-ט"ו

(ד) וַיֹּאמֶר יוֹסֵף אֶל־אָחָיו גִּשׁוּ־נָא אֵלָי וַיִּגְשׁוּ וַיֹּאמֶר אֲנִי יוֹסֵף אַחֵיכֶם אֲשֶׁר־מָכַרְתֶּם אֹתִי מִצְרַיִמָּה: (ה) וַעֲתָה וְאֶל־תַּעֲצְבוּ וְאֶל־יִחַר בְּעֵינֵיכֶם כִּי־מָכַרְתֶּם אֹתִי הֲנֵה כִּי לְמַחֲיָה שָׁלַחַנִי אֱלֹהִים לְפָנֵיכֶם: (ו) כִּי־זָה שְׁנַתִּים הָרַעַב בְּקֶרֶב הָאָרֶץ וְעוֹד חָמֵשׁ שָׁנִים אֲשֶׁר אֵין־חֲרִישׁ וְקֹצִיר: (ז) וַיִּשְׁלַחַנִי אֱלֹהִים לְפָנֵיכֶם לְשׁוּם לָכֶם שְׂאֵרִית בְּאָרֶץ וְלִהְיוֹת לָכֶם לְפָלִיטָה גְדֹלָה: (ח) וַעֲתָה לֹא־אֲתֹם שְׁלַחְתֶּם אֹתִי הֲנֵה כִּי הָאֱלֹהִים וַיִּשְׁלַחַנִי לְאָב לְפַרְעֹה וְלִאֲדוֹן לְכָל־בֵּיתוֹ וּמִשְׁלַבְכָל־אֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם: (ט) מִהֲרוּ וְעִלּוּ אֶל־אָבִי וְאָמַרְתֶּם אֵלָיו כֹּה אָמַר בְּנֵה יוֹסֵף שְׁמַעֲנִי אֱלֹהִים לְאֲדוֹן לְכָל־מִצְרַיִם רְדֵה אֵלָי אֶל־תַּעֲמַד: (י) וַיִּשְׁבַּת בְּאֶרֶץ־גֹּשֶׁן וְהָיְתָ קְרוֹב אֵלָי אֲתָה וּבְנֵיךָ וּבְנֵי בְנֵיךָ וְצִאֲנֶךָ וּבְקָרְךָ וְכָל־אֲשֶׁר־לְךָ... (יב) וְהִנֵּה עֵינֵיכֶם רְאוֹת וְעֵינַי אֹתִי בְּנִימִן כִּי־פִי הִמְדַּבֵּר אֵלֵיכֶם: (יג) וְהִגַּדְתֶּם לְאָבִי אֶת־כָּל־כְּבוֹדִי בְּמִצְרַיִם וְאֵת כָּל־אֲשֶׁר רָאִיתֶם וּמִהֲרַתֶּם וְהוֹרַדְתֶּם אֶת־אָבִי הֲנֵה: (יד) וַיִּפֹּל עַל־צַוְאָרֵי בְּנֵי־מוֹ־אָחָיו וַיִּבְכּוּ וּבְנֵי־מוֹ בָּכָה עַל־צַוְאָרָיו: (טו) וַיִּנְשֶׁק לְכָל־אָחָיו וַיִּבְכּוּ עֲלֵהֶם וְאָחָרַי כֹּן דָּבְרוּ אִתּוֹ: