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QUESTIONS

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Genesis 41:1-44:17

Q1: What role does divine providence play in the story of Joseph's success and reunion with his brothers? Are there any plot points that can *only* be explained by divine plan?

Q2: What qualities of Joseph's dream interpretation are so satisfying to Pharaoh? Why is he willing to trust Joseph's wisdom and give him so much power on this basis alone?

Q3: By what means does Joseph protect Egypt from famine? What does this teach us about Egyptian social structure?

Q4: Does Joseph have a plan for his brothers? Is he simply trying to make them suffer as punishment? Or is he putting them to a test?

Q5: The brothers share details about their family as an objection to Joseph's accusations against them. Why would familial status dispel suspicion of them being foreign spies?

Q6: What connection do the brothers intuit between their misfortunes in Egypt and their crime against Joseph?

Q7: Why did Joseph return the money to the brothers' sacks? Did he intend to make them feel like they had been framed?

Q8: Why does Judah wait until the grain is gone before confronting his father? How does his conduct contrast with Reuben's?

Q9: Do the brothers believe one of them will be the patriarchal successor, in the model of the previous three generations? If so, how does that affect their behavior?

Q10: Joseph repeatedly invokes God's powers, as well as his own capacity for divination. Is he being completely sincere?

Q11: How has communication with God changed over the generations leading up to Joseph? How do people in Joseph's generation detect the will of God?

Q12: What has always intrigued you about this parsha?