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Q1: Ramban thinks Joseph is driven to see his youthful dreams fulfilled by having first his brothers, and then his whole family, bow to him together. Thus, he manipulates his brothers into bringing Benjamin to Egypt. Is that a satisfying explanation of Joseph's deceitful behavior?

Q2: What would have happened had Joseph revealed himself to his brothers right away? Why did he delay, and what did that ultimately accomplish?

Q3: There is no direct evidence of Judah's tone in his climactic confrontation with Joseph. Do you think he was harsh? Conciliatory? Something else? Support your claim.

Q4: How do you think the brothers feel when Joseph reveals himself? Do you think they feel safer than when he was a capricious stranger?

Q5: What about the brothers' story does Jacob not believe, and why (45:26)? What changes his mind?

Q6: When Jacob hears that Joseph is alive, does he also realize the crime his other sons committed against him?

Q7: When Jacob leaves Canaan, does he expect to be able to return? What is the significance of his dream-vision of God? Does he know about Abraham's prophecy from chapter 15?

Q8: Joseph has almost unlimited political power in Egypt, but he needs to do some politicking to get his family set up in Goshen. What makes that such a sensitive situation?

Q9: What's different about the way Joseph describes his plan for the famine (41:33–36) compared to how it happens in practice (47:13–26)? Why? Did he do the right thing?

Q10: Why does Jacob speak so bitterly to Pharaoh, after the seemingly happy conclusion to his suffering?

Q11: What else intrigues you?