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Q1: Does the Book of Genesis have a theory of dreams? How do the brothers treat them? How does Jacob? What is Joseph saying when he tells his fellow inmates that interpretations come from God?

Q2: How many instances of deceit can you find in this section? (Extra credit: consider earlier parts of the book as well). Can you draw any conclusions about the moral consequences? Is it ever wise to be deceptive?

Q3: Why does the Torah include the short story about Joseph getting lost on the way to meet his brothers? Who is the man that redirects him?

Q4: How did jealousy cloud the judgment of Joseph's brothers? Can you justify their actions from their point of view?

Q5: How do you explain Reuben's and Judah's actions when the brothers attack Joseph? Can they be understood as differing styles of leadership? Are they merely self-interested?

Q6: Where does Reuben go while his brothers are eating? Does this constitute neglect of his duty to protect Joseph?

Q7: Does the story of Judah and Tamar contribute to a larger narrative arc in Genesis?

Q8: What are Judah's sins? Please submit a comprehensive list, and defend your choices.

Q9: Do you notice any similarities between Tamar's story and those of other women in the book of Genesis?

Q10: Is Judah's admission that he impregnated Tamar truly honorable? Can you point to a moment of moral transformation? Does the threat of public humiliation undermine the value of telling the truth?

Q11: What is the meaning of the crimson thread on Perez's wrist? How do the stories of births in Genesis foreshadow future themes and events?

Q12: What parallels can you find between Reuben's, Judah's, and Joseph's sexual misadventures?

Q13: What has always intrigued you about this parsha?