

Task Two:

I, Joseph, as I approach the end of my life have reflected on some of my experiences, what I've learned from them, and the lessons I hope my descendants will learn from me. One of the most important experiences I've had was being given a special jacket from my father signifying his love for me.

(37, 3) וְיִשְׂרָאֵל, אֶהָב אֶת-יֹוסֵף מִכָּל-בָּנָיו--כִּי-בָן-זָקֵנִים הוּא, לוֹ; וַעֲשֵׂה לוֹ, כְּתֹנֶת פָּסִים.

The problem, however, was that this made all of my brothers jealous of me, which lead to another hugely important part of my life. They first wanted to kill me, but ended up throwing me into a pit. Afterwards, they sold me to the Ishmaelites.

לְכוּ וְנִמְכְּרוּ לְיִשְׁמַעְאֵלִים, וְיָדְנוּ אֶל-תְּהֵי-בוֹ, כִּי-אֶחָיוּנוּ בְּשָׂרֵנוּ, הוּא; וַיִּשְׁמְעוּ, אֶחָיו. (37, 27)

One big mistake I made was trying to irritate my brothers and make them jealous. If I hadn't been so boastful about our father's special treatment of me then I could have had a completely different relationship with my brothers.

וַיַּחֲלֵם יֹוסֵף חֲלוֹם, וַיַּגֵּד לְאֶחָיו; וַיֹּוסֶפוּ עוֹד, שָׂנֵא אֹתוֹ.

וַיֹּאמֶר, אֲלֵיהֶם: שְׁמַעוּ-נָא, הַחֲלוֹם הַזֶּה אֲשֶׁר חָלַמְתִּי.

וְהִנֵּה אֲנִי מֵאֲלֵמִים אֲלֵמִים, בְּתוֹךְ הַשָּׂדֶה, וְהִנֵּה קָמָה אֲלַמְתִּי, וְגַם-נֹצְבָה; וְהִנֵּה תִסְבְּיָנָה אֲלַמְתֵּיכֶם, וְתִשְׁתַּחֲוּיֵן לְאֲלַמְתִּי.

וַיֹּאמְרוּ לוֹ, אֶחָיו, הֲמַלְאָךְ תִּמְלֹךְ עָלֵינוּ, אִם-מְשׁוֹל תִּמְשַׁל בָּנוּ; וַיֹּוסֶפוּ עוֹד שָׂנֵא אֹתוֹ, עַל-חֲלַמְתּוֹ וְעַל-דְּבָרָיו. (37, 5-8)

An experience that influenced my attitude greatly was becoming second to the Pharaoh in Egypt. It made me confident but humble in the way I carry myself. I felt very ashamed because I was put in jail, even for a misconception. Being put in charge of the Pharaoh's court