

**A Wayne Scott • LifeHouse Production**



# **JOSEPH!**

An Original Adaptation with Script, Music, and Lyrics by  
WAYNE ROBERT SCOTT

Additional Music and Lyrics by  
Kevin Janosky and Wayne R. Scott

*Based Upon the Biblical Book of Genesis, Chapters 34, 35, 37, 39-46*

© Copyright Mcmxcvi by W.R. Scott / LifeHouse Productions, Inc.  
All rights reserved.

**"JOSEPH!"**  
By Wayne Robert Scott

**DEDICATION**

*"Pain's furnace heat within me quivers  
God's breath upon the flame doth blow  
And all my heart in anguish shivers  
And trembles at the fiery glow  
And yet I whisper 'As God will!'  
And in His hottest fire hold still.*

*He comes and lays my heart, all heated  
On the anvil, minded so  
Into His own shape to beat it  
With His hammer, blow on blow!  
And yet I whisper, 'As God will!'  
And at His heaviest blows, hold still.*

*He takes my softened heart, and beats it;  
The sparks fly off at every blow  
He turns it over and over, heats it,  
Lets it cool, and makes it glow.  
And yet I whisper, 'As God will!'  
And in His mighty hand, hold still.*

*Why should I murmur? For the sorrow  
Only temporal would be;  
Its end may come, and will, tomorrow.  
When God has done His work in me.  
So I say, trusting, 'As God will!'  
And, trusting to the end, hold still.*

*He kindles for my profit purely  
Affliction's fiery, glowing brand;  
And all His heaviest blows are surely  
Guided by a Master-hand  
So I say, praying, 'As God will!'  
And hope in Him, and suffer still."*

## CAST OF CHARACTERS

(In Order of Appearance)

<b>Joseph</b>	God's Man of Dreams and Destiny
<b>Slave Broker</b>	Greedy Merchant
<b>Slave Broker</b>	Greedy Merchant
<b>Potiphar</b>	Pharaoh's Steward
<b>Semenka</b>	Potiphar's Foreman
<b>Ningal</b>	Potiphar's Wife
<b>Imhotep</b>	Potiphar's Trade Steward
<b>Young Joseph</b>	About Age 9 to 11
<b>Jacob</b>	Patriarch of Joseph's Family
<b>Rachel</b>	Mother of Joseph and Benjamin
<b>Leah</b>	Mother of First Six Sons
<b>Bilhah</b>	Mother of Dan and Naphtali
<b>Zilpah</b>	Mother of Gad and Asher
<b>Reuben</b>	
<b>Simeon</b>	
<b>Levi</b>	
<b>Judah</b>	
<b>Dan</b>	
<b>Naphtali</b>	Joseph's Brothers
<b>Gad</b>	
<b>Asher</b>	
<b>Issachar</b>	
<b>Zebulun</b>	
<b>Benjamin</b>	
<b>Hamor</b>	King of Shechem
<b>Shechem</b>	Hamor's Son, the Prince
<b>Dinah</b>	Joseph's Sister
<b>Young Benjamin</b>	About Age 7 to 10
<b>The Stranger</b>	An "Angel of the Lord"
<b>The Baker</b>	Chef to Pharaoh
<b>The Cupbearer</b>	Pours Pharaoh's Wine
<b>The Pharaoh</b>	King of Egypt
<b>Advisors to Pharaoh</b>	Soothsayers
<b>Chief Advisor</b>	Pompous Seer

### Various Additional Storytellers:

Slaves to Potiphar and Pharaoh  
Guards in Pharaoh's Court  
Jacob's Clan/ Family Members  
Villagers

# "JOSEPH!"

By Wayne R. Scott

## SYNOPSIS OF SONGS

### ACT I

#### Overture

1. "Joseph!" ..... Slave Broker, Semenka, Ningal, Slaves, Caravan, Villagers
2. "A Plea to Jehovah" ..... Joseph
3. "The Gambit" ..... Potiphar, Imhotep, Semenka, Ningal,  
"Joseph! (Reprise)" ..... Semanka, Imhotep, Ningal, Potiphar, Slaves  
"A Plea to Jehovah" (Reprise) ..... Joseph
4. "Come and Lie with Me" ..... Ningal, Joseph  
"Joseph! (Reprise)" ..... Imhotep, Potiphar, Ningal, Slaves
5. "The Legacy" ..... Joseph
6. "Praise Be Unto God" ..... Jacob, Brothers, Clan  
"The Legacy" (Reprise) ..... Joseph  
"Come and Lie with Me" (Reprise) ..... Shechem, Joseph, Brothers  
"A Plea to Jehovah" (Instrumental Reprise, Dream Sequence) ..... Joseph, Brothers  
"The Legacy" (Reprise) ..... Joseph
7. "God of Israel" ..... Jacob, Brothers, Clan  
"Come and Lie With Me" (Reprise) ..... Joseph, Reuben, Jacob  
"A Plea to Jehovah" (Instrumental Reprise, Dream Sequence) ..... Brothers
8. "The Dreams" ..... Joseph, Brothers  
"God of Israel" (Reprise) ..... Joseph  
"The Gambit" (Reprise) ..... Simeon, Levi, Judah, Brothers  
"Joseph!" (Reprise) ..... Slave Broker, Brothers  
"God of Israel" (Reprise) ..... Slave Broker, Brothers  
"The Legacy" (Reprise) ..... Joseph  
"A Plea to Jehovah" (Reprise) ..... Joseph

### ACT II

#### Entr'acte

9. "Joseph's Prayer" ..... Joseph, Potiphar
10. "Where is He Now?" ..... Baker, Cupbearer, Joseph  
"The Dreams" (Reprise) ..... Baker, Cupbearer, Joseph  
"God of Israel" (Reprise) ..... Jacob, Benjamin  
"The Gambit" (Instrumental Dream Sequence and Reprise) ..... Pharaoh, Advisors  
"The Dreams" (Reprise) ..... Pharaoh, Joseph  
"Joseph!" (Reprise) ..... Slaves  
"God of Israel" (Reprise) ..... Reuben, Brothers, Jacob, Clan  
"Joseph's Prayer" (Reprise) ..... Brothers, Jacob

#### "FINALE"

11. "Do Not Fear" ..... Joseph  
"A Plea to Jehovah" (Reprise) ..... Joseph, Jacob, Brothers, Clan

# "Joseph!"

By Wayne Robert Scott

© Copyright Mcmxvi by W. R. Scott - LifeHouse Productions, Inc.

All rights reserved.

## ACT I

### Overture

#### SCENE 1: SLAVE AUCTION AT AN OASIS IN EGYPT

*(During last part of overture, the Slave Broker leads a line of slaves, headed by Joseph, to the slave auction square of an Egyptian city. A small caravan follows)*

### SONG: "JOSEPH"

<b>Slaves</b>		Joseph!
<b>Broker</b>	<i>(Taunting Joseph)</i>	Not so brave now!
<b>Slaves</b>		Joseph!
<b>Broker</b>		You're a slave now!
<b>Slaves</b>		Joseph!
<b>Broker</b>		You'll behave now!
<b>All</b>		Slave! Slave!—
<b>Broker</b>		Twenty silver coins for "such a man!"
<b>Slaves</b>		Ah— ah— ah— ah—
<b>Broker</b>		Sold out! By his brothers, by his clan (Ha ha!)
<b>Slaves</b>		Ah— ah— ah— ah—
<b>Broker</b>		Sold out! By his brothers banned!
		Though I don't understand—
		I have the upper hand!—
<b>Slaves</b>		Joseph!
		Dig your grave now!
<b>Slaves</b>		Joseph!
<b>Broker</b>		You're a slave now!
<b>Slaves</b>		Joseph!
<b>Broker</b>		You'll behave now,
<b>All</b>		Slave! Slave!— Slave!—
<b>Broker</b>	<i>(Using whip on Joseph)</i>	Don't look at me like that
		You'll see my whip can crack
		You'll have the sorest back
		As can be—
		Freedom you'll never see!
		You're simply property!
		And you will fetch a fee
		Just for me— just for me—
		Can it be?
		Slaves like you don't grow on trees!
		Here comes the Captain now!
		Drop to your knees and bow!
		What price will he allow one so brave?
		You have what others lack
		Good teeth and sturdy back
		In short, to be exact
		One fine slave— one fine slave—

Slave for sale!  
Sturdy, strong, robust, and hale!  
Buy now! He's going cheap!  
This one will earn his keep!  
Works hard and never sleeps—  
Now on sale! Slaves for sale! —  
Slaves for sale! Slaves for sale!  
*(Music continues as underscore)*

**Broker** Slaves! Fine slaves for sale at the Slave Auction of Egypt! *(Seeing Potiphar)*... Attention! The Slave Auction of Egypt extends a sincere and gracious welcome to the Chief Steward of the Pharaoh himself, the Captain of the Pharaoh's Court Guard— the distinguished and most honorable Potiphar!

**Potiphar** I thank you.  
*(He claps for Semenka, who joins him in an inspection leading to Joseph)*

**Broker** Many fine slaves are available to do your bidding. Ahh. I see this one has merited your attention. And rightly so. A new but outstanding acquisition. Well, you can see for yourself. These shoulders! Strong arms! Sturdy back! He's perfect.

**Potiphar** *(To his wife, who has just entered and taken his arm)* Well, wife? What say you?

**Ningal** *(After a meaningful stare at Joseph)* He has... an unusual countenance.

**Broker** Indeed. Indeed, my lady! *(Aside to Joseph)* Lift up your head, you fool. Act interested! *(Grabs Joseph's hair, lifting his head up)* There, you see! A visage of strength. *(Propping Joseph's mouth open)* See! He has teeth!

**Potiphar** Hmmmm. But has he ever done a hard day's labor?

**Broker** He's— er— teachable. Yes, teachable! A most agreeable, pleasant fellow. But most of all, submissive! Obedient! Does everything asked without complaint. And he never speaks except to pray.

**Potiphar** Can this be true? *(Pause)*

**Broker** *(Roughly, to Joseph)* Answer your master! Answer your master! Answer if you value your life!

**Joseph** My life— is in God's hands. I live to serve Him. I pray only to Him.

**Potiphar** Only one God, eh? *(Looking Joseph over)* Not a very kind god, I'll wager.  
*(General laughter)*

**Joseph** My God supplies my needs.

**Potiphar** Oh? Is that why he has reduced you to a life of slavery?  
*(More derisive laughter)*

**Broker** Well, he may be a bit— er— superstitious. He comes from a ritualistic clan of some sort. But his bizarre upbringing is of no consequence. *(Potiphar turns to leave)* Wait! Wait!

**Potiphar** Come, wife.

**Broker** He may be a superstitious man— a bit fanatical— but when he's not praying, he works very hard, I assure you!

*(Ningal whispers in Potiphar's ear)*

**Potiphar** *(To Semenka)* Semenka— what is your judgment?

**Semenka** *(Caressing his whip)* I've been known to turn piety— into productivity.

**Potiphar** True enough. I've seen you do it.

**Semenka** By the time I'm finished with him, he'll beg for the help of more than one God!  
*(More laughter)*

*(Song resumes)*

**Broker** *(To Joseph)* Ah, yes, you caught their eye  
One slave who satisfies  
I think that they will buy  
You for life!  
*(Slower, deliberate)* You have what others lack—  
And, I suspect, a knack

*(Lighting up; unfreeze)*  
*(Semenka approaches*  
*Broker)*

As aphrodisiac  
For the wife!  
Well, well, well!  
We won't tell!  
But I think you're in for—  
*(Music continues)*

**Broker** *(Startled, to Semenka)* **Hell**— o! Er— he's everything you could want, and more!  
**Semenka** *(Examining Joseph)* We could use a man like this.  
**Potiphar** Still... I'm not sure. *(Turning away, walking)* Come, wife... foreman. Let us be on our way home. *(They begin walking away)*  
**Broker** *(To Joseph)* Well, now you've done it! A glorious opportunity for both of us— dashed! You— You— obstinate, stubborn son of a jackal! You— you—  
*(Music rises to climax)*

*(Broker stops in mid-sentence, noticing that Potiphar has suddenly turned to re-examine Joseph. Potiphar gazes into Joseph's eyes at length)*

**Potiphar** *(After a pause)* There is something about him... Tell me, slave... what is your name?  
**Joseph** I am... Joseph... Son of Jacob...  
**Potiphar** *(Handing coin bag to Broker, who kisses it with glee)* Joseph, son of Jacob. Come.  
**Broker** Sold!

*(Song resumes)*

**All** Joseph!  
**Broker** Brave façade! Oh—  
**All** Joseph!  
**Broker** Rather odd! Oh—  
**All** Joseph!  
**Broker** Where's your God? You slave!—  
**All** Slave!  
**Broker** Sold him at a profit as I planned  
**All** *(Potiphar, Joseph and company 'sojourn' through audience as a caravan to next scene)* Ah— ah— ah— ah—  
Sold out by his brothers, by his clan—  
Ah— ah— ah— ah—  
Sold out! And by his brothers banned!  
So far from home and land  
A solitary man  
Joseph! Far from home now  
Joseph! On your own now  
Joseph! All alone now, slave! Slave!—

## SCENE 2: POTIPHAR'S ESTATE IN EGYPT

**Semenka** *(To Joseph and other estate slaves)*  
  
*(Pointing to graven*  
Here you will eat and sleep  
Then you will earn your keep  
You'll work without a peep  
If you're wise  
He who should go astray  
He who does not obey  
He finds a price to pay  
And he dies— yes, he dies—  
I surmise, you'll be wise  
And you'll rise with sparkling eyes  
And by Egyptian law

*image of Ra)*

*(All but Joseph bow)*

With reverence and with awe  
Pharaoh, the son of Ra has decreed  
Worship him, one and all  
Bow down! Before him fall!  
Answer the Pharaoh's call—  
On your knees! On your knees!  
Honor Pharaoh, if you please...  
*(Music continues as underscore)*

**Semenka** I thought you were pious, boy!... Well?... Are you too good for our god? ... Is our god beneath you and your God?  
**Joseph** Forgive me, sir. I have never bowed to any but the God of my fathers.  
**Semenka** Is that so? Well, neither they nor your God are here, are they?  
**Joseph** My God is with me wherever I go. *(Ningal enters at side and spies Joseph)*  
**Semenka** Oh? *(Looking about)* I don't see him. *(Laughter is heard from other slaves)* Silence! But I **do** see the image of Ra. He and his son, the Pharaoh are the gods here... we bow to them. We're not the holy men here, but as long as we worship, you'll worship. And as long as you worship here, you'll worship our gods. My gods. And I should think that as long as you're here, you'd be wise to be in Ra's good graces. Now bow... *(Pause)*... I said bow! *(Semenka punches Joseph in the stomach. Joseph doubles over on his knees in pain)*  
**Semenka** You'll be on your knees, all right. One way or another.  
*(Imhotep enters)*  
**Semenka** Ha ha ha! Where is your God, now?  
**Imhotep** Difficulty with the new slaves, already?  
**Semenka** Merely a misunderstanding.  
**Imhotep** Let's hope so. There is work to be done. I promised Potiphar a good return for his crops and I have secured many orders to fill. *(Dropping parchment on ground before Joseph)* The financial stability of Potiphar's household is depending on these orders. *(While still on knees, Joseph looks at orders)*  
**Semenka** Then let us be quick! *(Clapping)* Back to work, slaves! On the double! Fill the orders as usual... *(As slaves busy themselves preparing, lifting, and loading cloth sacks and various bundles, the filling of other bags with grain, etc., Joseph begins laboriously moving the largest, heaviest bag.)*  
**Semenka** *(To Joseph)* Here now! What do you think you're doing!?! *(Throwing Joseph to the ground)*  
That doesn't get moved! It stays! Imhotep— can you believe it!?  
**Imhotep** The slave knows better than you! That sack is a special order. It says so on the sack and it says so on my list. It is to be loaded first for transport to the Nile. I'm warning you, Semenka. If this shipment isn't handled with absolute accuracy. It will be both our heads. *(Exits)*  
*(Joseph rises slowly and though in obvious pain, he gingerly hands the shipment parchment to Semenka)*  
**Semenka** What good is this, idiot!?  
**Joseph** It is the shipment order.  
**Semenka** *(Throwing order away)* I know what it is! But what good is it— if I— cannot— read it?  
**Joseph** I can.  
**Semenka** You— ?  
**Joseph** I will help you.  
*(After a pause, Semenka nods grudgingly. Joseph picks up order and resumes work)*

**Ningal** *(Seductively, to self)* *(Song resumes)*  
Joseph! Young and strong, oh  
Joseph! Works so long, oh  
Joseph! He's beyond a slave— brave  
*(To Semenka)* Can't you see that he's not any man?  
He can read what's written on the plan  
Joseph! A diamond in the sand  
Good foremen understand



Ningal

And notice “such a man”—  
Joseph! Young and strong, oh  
Joseph! Works so long, oh  
Joseph!  
He’s beyond a slave. Brave...  
(Segue to)

(All action freezes in dimly lit tableau as Joseph sings amidst his labor)

**SONG: "A PLEA TO JEHOVAH"**

Joseph

One day at home with brothers  
The next, a slave with others  
But I will look higher  
While low in the fire  
My eyes shall be set upon  
Jehovah— Jehovah—  
God chooses whom He bruises  
But also whom He uses  
So without reserve  
I know whom I’ll serve  
My mind shall be set upon  
Jehovah—My Father—  
But Father— I am but one small man  
Father— take me into Your hands  
Your will, Your plans—  
Lord, help me to be grateful  
And may You find me faithful  
I give You control—  
My heart, life and soul  
Are Yours, oh my Father God  
Jehovah— Jehovah—  
Oh, hear me, my Father  
Please help me, I look— to— You—  
(Segue to celebratory introduction of)

(The Women of Potiphar’s Court perform a celebration dance)

**SONG: "THE GAMBIT"**

Potiphar (Entering with  
Imhotep)

Well done, I am grateful! Your deed is discharged—  
Our profits are up and our shipment enlarged  
The Pharaoh is pleased with my exporting plan  
He thinks what works well here will work through the land  
So I thank one and all— it’s one gigantic haul  
And the Pharaoh’s enthralled with our deals  
Let us raise up a glass to what has come to pass  
Prosperity leads to good meals!  
And now I must offer a token of thanks  
The least an employer can do for his ranks  
You’ve done well your task, so now what may I do?  
Just name what you’d like as a bonus to you  
Well, I’m honored you gave such high praise and such raves  
My eye’s on a slave in your care

Imhotep

*(Refers to Joseph, who is seen engaged in administration)*

Just give him to me as a part of my fee  
A man such as this one is rare  
A man such as this one is rare!  
*(Music continues as underscore)*

**Imhotep** I hope I am not too presumptuous, kind Potiphar. But a slave who can both read and write, who practices such diplomacy, who prospers at virtually every task he undertakes— Such a man would be more than satisfactory payment for my— er— considerable services.

**Ningal** But husband. I thought he attracted your own personal favor.

**Potiphar** Indeed. He has not escaped my watchful eye. Semenka, bring him to me.

**Semenka** You there!... Come here! The Master wishes to see you.

*(Joseph approaches)*

**Potiphar** *(Looking him over)* My steward reports you have done well. Does my foreman concur?

**Semenka** *(After meaningful exchange of glances)* Yes, Master.

**Potiphar** Ra has truly smiled upon us. Your addition to this household has been most fortunate.

**Joseph** Jerhovah was gracious to us both when our paths crossed.

**Semenka** Surely you'll recall, Master, that he speaks endlessly of his God.

**Potiphar** Ah, yes. But this is blasphemy! Only Pharaoh, son of Ra is god. This is not Canaan. You're in Egypt now. Do you dare show contempt for Pharaoh— god on earth? This is the height of impertinence!

*(The celebrants are hushed and awkwardly stare)*

**Joseph** None intended, Master. I serve humbly and with dedication— to please you. But....

**Potiphar** Yes?

**Joseph** I cannot deny my God.

**Potiphar** Fancy that! A slave with a mind of his own! What of that, wife?

**Ningal** *(Looking meaningfully at Imhotep and Semenka)* We are already overrun by fawning “yes” men. But a slave who can think for himself— and read— and write? Such men are at a premium, if they may be had at all. Potiphar would be wise to retain him.

**Potiphar** Ha! The Pharaoh's Chief Steward runs an empire, but is told how to conduct his own home!

*(Song resumes)*

**Potiphar** Oh, where can he be, this now vanishing breed?  
The species we need once called “man of the house”—  
His slave lectures him on religion and such  
And worse, his own home is now run by his spouse!

**Ningal** His wife is just thinking of what's best for him  
Can I help it if he is a find?

**Semenka** He can read—

**Imhotep** He can write—

**Semenka** And he prospers all day—

**The Three** In short, he's a slave with a mind

**Ningal** In short, he's a slave— with a mind

*(Music continues; segue to)*

**Ningal** Whether he is in the fields or the storehouse— he flourishes.

**Potiphar** Is this true?

**Semenka** Yes, Master.

**Potiphar** Then he shall manage all the affairs of my household. *(Turning to leave, said to Imhotep)* You'll need to name another price for your bonus. This man shall remain here— as my Chief Steward.

**Joseph** Thank you, Master.

**Potiphar** *(Turning to leave, then deliberately stopping to turn and face Joseph)* Refresh my memory.,  
Your name again, please.

**Joseph** Joseph...

**Potiphar** Joseph...

*(Music builds as Joseph resumes work under Potiphar's supervision. Semenka, Ningal, and Imhotep look on. Joseph "plants," "harvests," and loads "shipments")*

**SONG: "JOSEPH!" (Reprise)**

<b>All</b>		Joseph!
<b>Semenka</b>		Gaining favor—
<b>All</b>		Joseph!
<b>Imhotep</b>		Household savior—
<b>All</b>		Joseph!
		Good behavior pays! Pays!
<b>Semenka</b>		Master takes a liking to this man
<b>Imhotep</b>		Why not? Honest work is in demand
		Reads and writes and understands
		The seasons of the land—
		Makes meadows out of sand!
<b>All</b>		Joseph!
<b>Ningal</b>	<i>(Longingly)</i>	Young and strong, oh
<b>All</b>		Joseph!
<b>I &amp; S</b>	<i>(Enviously)</i>	Does no wrong, oh
<b>All</b>		Joseph!
<b>Potiphar</b>	<i>(Approvingly)</i>	He belongs to me— me
<b>Imhotep</b>	<i>(Refers to Potiphar)</i>	Wisely did he promote
		Joseph the antidote
		He keeps the crops afloat
		And works hard!
<b>All</b>		With Joseph now in charge
		Profits are growing large
		So is his high regard
		As a star— Rising star!
		He's the pride of Potiphar! <i>(Exit)</i>
<b>Ningal</b>	<i>(Slowly)</i>	Oh, how he moves with grace—
		Oh what a handsome face—
		This surely is the place for this one <i>(Exits)</i>
<b>Potiphar</b>	<i>(Slowly)</i>	Joseph, I won't pretend, you are not man of men
		And more than that— a friend— and a son
		You've become— like a son
		<i>(Music continues as underscore)</i>
<b>Potiphar</b>		Joseph, you have made me well pleased. Our new system of cooperative crop distribution has been highly successful— due in no small measure to your ability and diligence. You are indeed— prosperous.
<b>Joseph</b>		It is of God, Master.
<b>Potiphar</b>		Ahh. Your God again. Well... who am I to say that it isn't? All I know is that things changed for the better when you entered my life. And the success of our agricultural program has not gone unnoticed. I am to report to Pharaoh at the palace. I entrust all matters of the household to you, Joseph, as I know you will work to justify the confidence I have placed in you. May Ra and all the gods continue to light your path. <i>(He turns to exit)</i>
<b>Joseph</b>		<i>(After a pause)</i> And may the Lord God Jehovah bless you, Master...
		<i>(Potiphar stops suddenly, turns to face Joseph, offers the hint of a smile, nods slightly, then exits)</i>
		<i>(Music builds to introduction of following reprise)</i>
		<i>(Joseph dispatches other slaves to various duties and then is seen alone)</i>

SCENE 3: A MOONLIT TERRACE ON POTIPHAR'S ESTATE IN EGYPT

**SONG: "A PLEA TO JEHOVAH" (Reprise)**

**Joseph**

How could a slave's devotion  
Lead to this strange promotion?  
Oh, Lord, it's of You— I know You are true  
My heart, life and soul are Yours  
Jehovah— My Father  
But Father— I am but one small man  
Father— Take me into Your hands  
Your will, Your plans—  
Oh, Lord, I am so grateful  
And may You find me faithful  
I give You control—  
My heart, life and soul  
Are Yours, oh my Father God  
Jehovah— Jehovah—  
Oh hear me, my Father  
Please help me— I look— to— You—

*(Ningal enters  
from behind  
Joseph and  
observes)*

*(Joseph kneels)*

*(Music continues as underscore, transitioning to next song)*

**Ningal**

*(After a moment of watching Joseph pray)... Joseph...*

**Joseph**

*(Startled)* My lady!

**Ningal**

I didn't mean to frighten you.

**Joseph**

Er— no, my lady I was— er— I was only praying.

**Ningal**

To whom? To what? I see not images. But... if you are troubled— perhaps I may help.

**Joseph**

Er— perhaps— er— my lady, you are in need of something. Er— perhaps Madam has some service— or something I may perform for her?

**Ningal**

*(Smiling seductively)* Ohhh yes...

**Joseph**

Er— perhaps— I may fetch something for my lady?

**Ningal**

*(Sitting on terrace lounge)* Joseph... come here. You are an honored servant... Let me reward you.

**Joseph**

I require no reward, my lady

**Ningal**

Come, come now, Joseph. You may dispense with the formalities. After all, Potiphar isn't here.

**Joseph**

I do not understand, my lady. What is it you would have me do?

**SONG: "COME AND LIE WITH ME"**

**Ningal**

Come and lie with me, come and stay with me  
Come and comfort yourself in my arms  
You're a handsome man, come and take my hand  
Let us keep one another warm

**Joseph**

*(Spoken)* This is not right, my lady.

**Ningal**

*(Spoken; rising)* Has my husband promoted you to the place where you may lecture me?

**Joseph**

No, my lady, he has not.

**Ningal**

We are all alone, make yourself at home  
Lie with me and relax, do not go  
There's no need to fear those who are not here  
How could Potiphar ever know?

**Joseph**

He's more than a master, I count him a friend

**Ningal** *(Spoken)* This making a sport of me truly must end  
 He trusts me to care for the home and for you  
*(Care for me, Joseph)*  
 To God and to Potiphar I must be true!

**Ningal** *(Relentlessly)* Come and lie with me, come and stay with me  
 Come and comfort yourself in my arms  
 You're a handsome man, come and take my hand  
 Let us keep one another warm

**Joseph** Let me make it clear that the One whom I fear  
 Is not merely your husband but One I hold dear  
 This act is a great sin in the eyes of the Lord  
 Who sees and who knows all we are  
 What you are suggesting would bring down the sword.  
*(Musical interlude)*

**Ningal** *(Spoken; bringing her arms to Joseph's shoulders)* You have dust on your shoulders... strong  
 shoulders. *(Caressing his upper arms)* You work hard... and the strength in your shoulders  
 proves it... *(Ningal intensifies her hold on Joseph)*

**Joseph** *(Extremely uncomfortable; agitated)* How can I betray your husband's trust? How can I sin  
 against God? *(Struggling, turning to leave)*... I will not!—  
*(Musical climax)*

*(Joseph breaks free of Ningal's grip, but in their struggle, loses a portion of his outer garment to  
 her hands)*

**Ningal** *(Screaming)* Ahhhh! No! How dare you?! *(Looking at garment with deliberation, then  
 screaming with maniacal abandon)* Rape!... Rape!! *(Collapsing)* Help me!

**Semenka** *(Rushing in with Imhotep)* My lady! *(To Imhotep)* Send for Potiphar!  
**Imhotep** *(Exiting)* Right away!

**Semenka** *(Other household slaves and servants enter, shocked)*  
 What is it, my lady? What happened?

*(Song resumes)*

**Ningal** That slave thinks that he is now head of the house  
 And thinks that his duties include Master's spouse  
 He dared to attack me and have his own way  
 That wretched slave, Joseph! I vow he will pay!

**Ningal** Arrest him! Seize that haughty Hebrew! That vile Joseph!

### **SONG: "JOSEPH!" (Reprise)**

**All** *(Taunting Joseph as he is brought in, hands bound)* Joseph! Stands accused now—  
 Joseph! What's the use now?  
**Imhotep** *(As Potiphar enters)* Joseph! No excuse now— slave— slave!  
 How can one betray so high a trust?  
**Potiphar** Tell the Master— he returns to us—  
 Joseph— what is all this fuss?  
**Ningal** There's nothing to discuss—  
 The slave abused your trust!  
 As you can plainly see  
 He forced himself on me  
 Therefore you will agree that implies  
*(Pointing at Joseph)* He who would scratch and claw

He who would break the law  
He who defiles Ra  
Therefore dies— Joseph dies  
He must die— He must die!  
*(Music continues as brief underscore, fading)*

**Potiphar** *(To Joseph)* Is it therefore possible, then, that what my servants ran to tell me— is true?  
**Joseph** Would you have me call— your own wife— a liar?  
**Potiphar** *(Taking Ningal aside by her arm)* Come, wife... There are many pressing matters before Pharaoh I must attend to. What in the name of Ra happened?  
**Ningal** Am I less important to you than Pharaoh?  
**Potiphar** I cannot help that I am in his service— and serve at his whim. But never mind that. I am here now. What happened?  
**Ningal** It was as I said. He came to this terrace— our terrace— without cause. He said that all that is yours is in his hands. *(Feigning tears)* Including me. I screamed and...scratched him. *(Referring to Joseph's garment)* He left this in our struggle. I finally pushed him away— and drove him out. *(Solemnly)* Now hear me, Potiphar. I want the full measure of the law. I want— his— death! *(As it is overheard, this statement elicits others' reaction)*  
**Potiphar** *(Letting this sink in)* Go now, Ningal... You must rest. Go. *(As Ningal acts distressed and feeble, female servants help her as she exits)*  
**Potiphar** The rest of you may leave as well. *(Semenka claps hands to affirm this order)* leave me with Joseph. *(All but Semenka exit)*... Yes, Semenka? Do you have anything more you may add to this sorry incident?  
**Semenka** I— I— find it impossible to believe that— that Joseph could do such a—  
**Potiphar** *(Angrily, rapidly)* It is indeed incomprehensible! Did you see anything?  
**Semenka** No.  
**Potiphar** Did you hear anything?  
**Semenka** Only— only the screams of Madame.  
**Potiphar** Then there is nothing more you may say that will help. Leave us. *(Semenka leaves slowly, obviously dejected; Potiphar allows an uncomfortable silence finally broken by his outburst)*  
**Potiphar** I thought I could trust you!  
**Joseph** But you can, Master.  
**Potiphar** Then, why this?! And why now, when everything has been going so well? Confound it! Explain yourself!  
**Joseph** How? How can you trust the word of a slave over— your own wife?  
**Potiphar** Give me something! Give me anything to go on!  
**Joseph** I have only my word before God.  
**Potiphar** That's not enough! You've been accused of a vile crime punishable by death! Do you understand? Death!  
**Joseph** *(Vehemently)* And a man guilty of such a repulsive crime would deserve nothing less!  
**Potiphar** How dare you raise your voice to me? We may share— a kindred spirit— but do not forget you are a slave. A slave who has placed me— in a terrible position... Is there nothing more you can say?  
**Joseph** Master— I will do my best— if you will allow me to speak as a free man.  
**Potiphar** *(Pausing)* I shall grant you this liberty. But you must tell no one that I permitted this. *(Music begins)*  
**Joseph** Master, what I am accused of doing is an abomination to the God I serve and love with all my heart, mind, and soul. I cannot go against my God, Jehovah. My faith— my love— my devotion to God dictates my allegiance to Him.  
**Potiphar** Yes. Yes, I know. This— this unseemly circumstance goes against everything I have ever observed of you. Tell me more. Give me a way of proving that this crime is inconsistent with who you are.  
**Joseph** A defense? A proof? Evidence you can touch and feel? This, Master, I fear I cannot provide. I can only tell you of my devotion to God.

**Potiphar** And what of this God? You speak endlessly of Him, but why do you serve Him so? You— a slave. What is this— this God’s all-consuming claim upon you?  
**Joseph** You are asking me to take you back to old and painful memories— the time before I was a slave in your service.  
**Potiphar** Then so be it. Your life depends upon it.

**SCENE 4: A VILLAGE OF TENTS ON A PLAIN IN BETHEL**

*(Youngest Joseph, Jacob, and other family members are seen as described)*

**SONG: “THE LEGACY”**

**Joseph** I am the son— the son of Jacob  
The next to youngest in a clan of boys  
A favored son— my brothers envied—  
I represented Jacob’s pride and joy  
I am “Joseph the Dreamer”  
But know my Redeemer  
The God known to Abraham  
Old Abraham was my Great-Granddad—  
My father followed in the old man’s ways  
They walked with God, who promised both men  
They’d have a nation of their own one day  
So inspired by God’s plan  
For this new Promised Land  
We were led to a fertile plain  
We settled there— this clan of brothers  
And Bethel truly was a welcome land  
And though we had four different mothers  
We trusted the Lord would work His plan  
From these first generations  
Would come forth the nation  
That God guided by His hand—  
Yes, these first generations  
Would bring forth the nation  
That God guided by His hand  
*(Music continues, segues to next song)*

*(Festive dance among Joseph’s kindred begins)*

**Potiphar** How many brothers altogether?  
**Joseph** There were eleven of us when we arrived at Bethel... At that time, my beloved mother, Rachel, was carrying what would become the twelfth and last of our number. I remember she was so relieved when we arrived because the years of traveling like nomads left her exhausted. Finally, we were settling down. At least for a time. It was cause for a great and lively celebration... And oh, how we celebrated!... As usual, my father, Jacob— also known by the name of Israel— led us in a festive song praising our God Jehovah.

**SONG: “PRAISE BE UNTO GOD”**

**Jacob** Glory to God, I will praise Him  
I will praise Him! Praise be to His name!  
**All** Oh, glory to God, I will praise Him  
Glory to His name— now and forever always!  
Glory to His name!

Praise be unto God, oh, praise be unto God!  
He defends, protects, directs, so praise be unto God!  
Praise be unto God, oh, praise be unto God!  
He's the guiding Lord of all, so praise be unto God!  
*(Musical interlude)*

**Joseph**

*(As the music continues, The Brothers pass Joseph in dance as he recalls each brother by name)*  
Oh, how my brothers celebrated! *(Pointing)* My eldest brother, Reuben!... Simeon, Levi, and Judah!... Dan, Naphtali and Gad!... Asher, Issachar and Zebulun!... *(To himself)* Showoffs!... How well I remember their antics...

**All**

*(Singing resumes)*  
Glory to God, I will praise Him!  
I will praise Him! Praise be to His name!  
Oh, Glory to God, I will praise Him  
Glory to His name— now and forever always!  
Glory to His name!  
*(Music and dancing continues)*

**Potiphar**  
**Joseph**

And what about the women in your family?  
My beloved mother, Rachel, was the love of my father's life. But the mother to most of my brothers was my mother's older sister, Leah.  
*(Leah is coaxed into dancing by the light-hearted brothers as Rachel and Jacob observe, smiling)*  
You see, my father was deceived into marrying my stepmother, Leah, when all along my mother Rachel was his true love. Perhaps it was God's justice. Years before, my father cheated his brother out of the birthright and the blessing of his father Isaac.

**Potiphar**

Really?

*(Music suddenly shifts to reflective mood; dance action "freezes" as dimly lit tableau)*

**Potiphar**  
**Joseph**  
**Potiphar**  
**Joseph**  
**Potiphar**

But I thought your father loved your God— and lived righteously.  
My father does love God. But even the most righteous can make mistakes.  
As perhaps... you have.  
I swear before the Lord Jehovah I have told you the truth...  
Do continue...

*(Lively music resumes, "a tempo"; dancing resumes)*

**Joseph**

I also have a beloved sister, Dinah. The other women in our family are the two handmaids, Zilpah and Bilhah... They are my other stepmothers... It was a joyous time... But God ordained that these happy moments were not to last...

**Jacob**  
**Rachel**  
**Jacob**  
**Rachel**  
**Jacob**  
**Rachel**

*(To Rachel)* Perhaps if we were a bit younger, we would be dancing, too.

*(In sudden pain)* Ahhh!

Rachel— what is it?

Our new child is telling me the time is near...

You have been working too hard.

I do my share to help keep the simmering tempers of our women folk from boiling over.

Everyone knows you chose to settle here to ease my burden.

I have done as God directs. But I make no secret of my love for you.

Perhaps you should. Leah grows even more jealous.

There is enough love for all. But you shall always be first in my heart.

You mean second. No one comes before Joseph...

*(Jacob playfully hugs Rachel as the singing resumes)*

**All**

Praise be unto God, oh, praise be unto God!  
He defends, protects, directs so praise be unto God!



Praise be unto God, oh, praise be unto God!  
He's the guiding Lord of all, so praise be unto God!  
Glory to God, I will praise Him!  
I will praise Him! Praise be to His name!  
Oh, glory to God, I will praise Him  
Glory to His name— now and forever always!  
Glory to His name— now and forever always!  
Glory to His name—  
Hallelujah! Praise be unto God! Hey!  
(Segue to)

**SONG: "THE LEGACY" (Reprise)**

**Joseph**

*(The action described  
is acted out)*

And at that time, a King named Hamor  
The monarch of a Kingdom near our land  
He came to see us there with his son  
A prince who was a very handsome man  
Through they both came to meet us  
To welcome and greet us  
A terrible deed was done  
This handsome son, this Prince named Shechem  
Became attracted to my sister there  
And so they met and walked and wandered  
The Prince found sister Dinah oh so fair  
He soon had entranced her  
He wooed and romanced her  
And did more than he should dare  
(Segue to)

**SONG: "COME AND LIE WITH ME" (Reprise)**

**Shechem**

Come and lie with me, come and stay with me  
Come and comfort yourself in my arms  
You are kind and sweet— What a lovely treat  
Let us keep one another warm—  
(Musical bridge)

**Joseph**

**Brothers** *(Indignant)*

It soon was discovered the deed had been done  
My family was outraged by King Hamor's son—  
This act is disgraceful, disgusting— a shame!  
A blight upon Dinah and our family name—  
Our friendship is ruined and you are to blame!

**Shechem** *(Sincerely)*

But I love her so— I want you to know  
I am sorry for what I have done  
I am most sincere and to make it clear  
We will wed and we'll live as one  
(Music continues as underscore)

**Hamor**

My son, Shechem truly has his heart set on your daughter. Please give her to him as his wife.  
Intermarry with us; give us your daughters and take our daughters for yourselves. Live among us;  
the land is open to you. Live in peace with us.  
*(There are general murmurs among Jacob's clan)*

**Shechem**

*(Pleading)* Please allow me to find favor in your eyes. I truly love Dinah and I will give you  
whatever you ask in return. Only please give me this girl as my wife.

**Jacob** What has happened is wrong. But I do appreciate the sincerity and the spirit in which you now come.

**Simeon** But father— we cannot permit such a thing!

**Levi** We have our traditions.

**Simeon** We cannot give our sister Dinah to a man who does not bear the mark of our devotion to God— a man who is not circumcised.  
*(Hamor and Shechem exchange whispers)*

**Levi** If we are all to live as one people, then you must follow our ways.

**Simeon** All the people of your nation must follow our God. Every male must be circumcised.

**Hamor** My son and I are most sincere in what we have said.

**Shechem** I will do whatever you ask to make what I have done right— in your sight and in the sight of your God... Our God.

**Hamor** We will do as you say. We shall be one people. And we shall live together in peace...

**Jacob** *(After a pause)* Agreed!  
*(The Brothers murmur and whisper among themselves. The action of the following song is acted out as Joseph resumes the narrative)*

**SONG: “THE LEGACY” (Reprise)**

**Joseph** And so the men were in agreement  
But secretly my brothers made a plan  
They waited for the circumcision  
Of all the men in Shechem’s nearby land  
Above all suspicion, my brother’s ambition  
Was vengeance on Shechem’s clan  
No one ever suspected, and so, unprotected  
Quick death came to every man...  
*(Music continues as underscore)*

**Jacob** Simeon! Levi! So you’re behind this— this slaughter! I can see the city on fire from here! What right have you to take the place of God? To savagely murder innocent people?

**Simeon** Should they have treated our sister Dinah as a prostitute?

**Jacob** They were planning to treat her as a bride! But no, you must have blood. You must have vengeance! Ruthless! Heartless! Merciless! Senseless! Are we no longer men of our word? God forgive us! And now, thanks to your bloodthirst, we’ll be the scourge of the land... we’ll be a stench to the Canaanites and the Perizzites and all the people of this land. We are few in number, and if they join forces to attack us, we will all be destroyed! Come! We must pack up and leave this place— this place God provided. May He have mercy on us all... God forgive us...  
God forgive us...

*(As the song resumes, Jacob and family pick up their belongings, form a caravan through the audience, and return to main stage)*

**Joseph** My father was distraught and saddened  
But knew that this would be the price to pay  
So once again, we’re on the move now  
We trusted that the Lord would lead the way  
We went where God guided, the land He provided  
Was where we would spend our days—  
We went where God guided, the land He provided  
Was where we would spend our days—

**SCENE 5: A VILLAGE OF TENTS ON A PLAIN NEAR EPHRATH (Parts A-F)**

**(A)** *(The caravan resettles. Rachel collapses)*  
**Jacob** Rachel!

**Rachel** I'll be all right.  
**Jacob** This journey has been too strenuous.  
**Rachel** I just need to rest.  
**Jacob** And rest you shall. Let us help you... *(Rachel is assisted to a mat)* There, that's better. *(Seeing Young Joseph)* Ah, Joseph, my son. *(Taking lamb from young Joseph)* You have chosen a fine sacrifice for the Lord our God. Let us worship Him together in gratitude for all He has done... *(An altar sacrifice is conducted during the following song. Rachel feebly rises as Jacob begins leading the worship song)*

**SONG: "GOD OF ISRAEL"**

**Jacob** Gather 'round our people and to God give praise  
 He is our Shepherd and He guides our ways  
 And He has led us to the land where we will dwell  
**The Lord** is our God, the God of Israel  
 He has promised blessings on us all  
 God, may we be worthy of Your call  
 He is the Lord, the God of Abraham who dwells  
 With us, in us, oh God of Israel  
 Bless You, oh bless You, God of Abraham who dwells  
 With us, in us, oh God of Israel  
 God of Israel— God of Israel

*(Unnoticed by all but Bilhah and Zilpah, Rachel collapses and is helped to the tent. Tent is 'back lit' revealing shadows of birthing preparations)*

**All** He has promised blessings on us all  
 God may we be worthy of Your call  
 He is the Lord, the God of Abraham who dwells  
 With us, in us, oh God of Israel  
 Bless You, oh bless You, God of Abraham who dwells  
 With us, in us, oh God of Israel  
 God of Israel— God of Israel  
*(Music continues as underscore)*

*(The screaming cry of a newborn baby is heard and all are awe-struck)*  
**Jacob** The baby! Rachel has given birth!  
**Bilhah** *(Emerging from tent)* Jacob! Rachel has given you another son!  
**Jacob** *(Amidst general excitement, making his way to tent)* Praise be unto the Lord God Jehovah!  
 Thanks be unto God!... Joseph!... My son!... *(Hugging Young Joseph)* You have a new brother!  
 One for you to look after...

**Zilpah** Jacob! Come quick! Rachel is not well... She's dying.

**Jacob** No! My beloved!

**Young Joseph** Mother!... Mother!...  
*(Tent may rotate to reveal interior)*

**Jacob** Rachel... My Rachel!... You have given me a son.

**Rachel** *(Crying in anguish)* Call him— Ben Oni. Ben Oni... "Child— of— my— pain."

**Jacob** *(Crying)* No— no, my love! Ben Jamin! *(Sobbing)* "Child— of— my— happiness."  
*(Music rises)*

*(Rachel breathes her last, babe in arms. Jacob takes the baby in his arms and weeps)*  
**Young Joseph** Mother!... *(Running away)* No! Jehovah!... Jehovah!... Noooooo!...

*(Song resumes)*  
**All** *(Slowly, solemnly)* Lord, our God, have mercy on us all—  
 Help us, Father, hear us as we call  
 Help us, dear Lord, the God of Abraham who dwells  
 With us, in us, oh God of Israel

*(Very slowly and mournfully)*

Help us, dear Lord, the God of Abraham who dwells  
With us, in us, oh God of Israel  
God of Israel— God of Israel...

*(All exit)*

*(Segue to)*

**(B)**

**SONG: “COME AND LIE WITH ME” (Reprise)**

**Joseph**

The tragic events of our lives carried on  
When Reuben decided to do what was wrong  
He came to the maid of my mother and said  
Forsake Father Jacob— lie with me instead  
Forsake Father Jacob— and come to my bed  
Come and lie with me, come and stay with me  
Come and comfort yourself in my arms  
Who would ever know that I loved you so  
Let us keep one another warm  
*(Music continues as underscore)*

**Reuben**

**Reuben**  
**Bilhah**  
**Reuben**

Bilhah... come with me. This is our chance. Soon, Father will send us away to tend the flocks.  
Reuben, it isn't right.  
I am the eldest. Sooner or later all my father's concubines will all be mine. If we're together now— or later— what difference does it make? Come!  
*(Reuben and Bilhah exit)*

*(Song resumes)*

**Joseph**

My sister reported the deed had been done  
My father was outraged by his eldest son  
This act is disgraceful and I have been shamed  
What were you thinking in God's holy name?  
*(Music ends)*

**Jacob** *(Confronting couple)*

**(C)**

**Jacob**

*(Sternly)* All right everyone. Gather 'round! *(The Brothers assemble, others look on)* The time has come for a change of leadership among brothers. Leadership that I can trust and have confidence in. *(The statement stings and the brothers murmur)* Quiet! And listen carefully. As you know, the flocks must be moved and tended. This can be accomplished in one phase of the moon and then you will return for the harvest. *(Joseph emerges from tent)* While you are gone... Joseph will be in authority. You will hear his words as if they were my own... Is this understood?—

**Reuben**

*(Emerging from the “pack” of brothers)* No, father... It is not understood... I don't understand what you are doing. I am the eldest.

**Jacob**

And the one who shows me the least respect! You and Bilhah have shamed me before our entire family— shamed me before the whole encampment. The sons of Leah give me nothing but trouble and grief. Simeon and Levi led a bloodthirsty rampage through the land of Shechem. And my beloved Rachel died from the journey that resulted from our flight from this sin— The rest of you bicker over petty jealousies. If you, my sons, cannot honor me and our God, I cannot honor you, Rachel's firstborn, Joseph, shall be in authority. *(The brothers, clearly dismayed, begin to disperse, when a sheepskin falls out from beneath Simeon's garment; Jacob immediately spots it)* Wait!... What is **this**?

**Simeon**

I— er— I found it in the field today. A wild animal must have eaten it.

**Jacob** Do you take me for a fool? Wild animal! No wild animal so cleanly cuts the skin off its prey. I've been a shepherd all my life—I know what they face and I know all their tricks! This was what you all ate for lunch in the field, more likely. One of our own sheep— Which I have expressly forbidden... Well?!... *(Long pause)*... Simeon? Reuben?... Levi?... *(Exasperated by the silence)*... Joseph— were you there?

**Joseph** *(Pausing, noticing the stares of his brothers)* No, father. *(The brothers exchange smug looks)*... But... I overheard Simeon and Levi talking with Reuben about what they did... It was as you said, father.

**Jacob** *(Throwing sheep skin at Simeon)* Just as I thought... I expect this will not happen again... Now, go to bed. You'll be leaving early in the morning... *(The brothers glumly begin exiting)* Joseph, wait a moment.

**Simeon** *(To Levi)* Well— now we know the kind of brotherhood we can expect from our dear Joseph.

**Levi** *(Sarcastic)* Our new, fearless leader... *(They exit)*

**Jacob** *(Pulling ornate cloak from his tent)* Joseph, my son... I have had this made for you... *(Leah, Zilpah, Bilhah, Dinah and Benjamin observe)*

**Joseph** Father? For me?

**Jacob** Go on. Try it on.  
*(Joseph, awestruck, slips into the coat)*

*(Music begins. Underscore: "A Plea to Jehovah," transitioning to "God of Israel")*

**Zilpah** My! He looks like a prince.

**Dinah** A handsome prince!

**Joseph** I surely do not deserve it.

**Leah** Hmmmm. None of his brothers have anything this exquisite.

**Jacob** None of his brothers are as worthy. Over the years he has shown me nothing but godly responsibility, devotion, and loyalty... Now, please leave us.  
*(All exit, except Jacob and Joseph. Benjamin pretends to leave, but spies on the two)*

**Jacob** I am honoring you, Joseph... You have earned the coat and the right of succession. You shall be my heir— the next in line as head of the tribe. This coat is a symbol you shall carry on the line. It is a coat of honor. Wear it with pride, as you have made me proud... Oh, my son... *(They hug and kiss)*

**Joseph** Thank you, father. I will strive to merit this honor.

**Jacob** Walk in the ways of the Lord, my son, and you will honor your earthly and your heavenly Father... Now, go to sleep. I'll be depending on you in the days ahead.

**Joseph** Good night, father.

**(D)** *(Jacob exits. Joseph prepares his "bed," heavy fabric on a mat near tent. Benjamin appears)*

**Benjamin** Oh, Joseph! It is a fine coat.

**Joseph** Oh, there you are, you rascal. I wondered where Little Brother went.

**Benjamin** I was— er— listening in on what Father said.

**Joseph** Benjamin! Shame on you!

**Benjamin** It's true, Joseph.

**Joseph** What?

**Benjamin** The things Father said about you...  
*(Embarrassed, but also touched, Joseph hugs Benjamin)*

**Joseph** Let's go to sleep, Little Brother. *(They lie down)*

**Benjamin** Joseph... What was Mother like?

**Joseph** Oh, she was wonderful. Sweet, kind, caring— and beautiful. I miss her.

**Benjamin** I wish I knew her.

**Joseph** Me too... She would have loved you very much... as I do.

**Benjamin** Joseph...

**Joseph** Yes, Benjamin...

**Benjamin** Did I cause Mother to die?

**Joseph** *(Sitting up)* Of course not.

**Benjamin** *(Sitting up)* Simeon and Levi told me I did...

**Joseph** That's just a lot of jealous nonsense. God took her home, Little Brother. It's all part of His plan. We're born, we live, we die. Even the sun and moon and stars rise and fall. It's all in God's hands. A time to be awake— and a time to sleep. *(Joseph lies down)*

**Benjamin** Joseph?...

**Joseph** Yes, Benjamin...

**Benjamin** Are you going to sleep in your new coat?

**Joseph** Hmm. Yes— I love it so much. And sleep we must. Tomorrow— will— be— here—  
*(Music rises)*

*(Benjamin joins Joseph in “falling asleep;” lights dim for special tableau)*

**(E)** **SONG: “A PLEA TO JEHOVAH” (Reprise)**  
*(Instrumental Dream Sequence)*

*(As the music plays, eleven giant stalks of wheat appear. They surround the sleeping form of Joseph and in semicircle, repeatedly bow to him. The eleven brothers are seen behind these stalks. At the conclusion, the eleven brothers and stalks are choreographed to exit and lighting changes to indicate a passage of time to “morning”)*

*(Music continues as underscore, transitioning to introduction of the song which follows)*

**(F)** *(Awakening with a start)* Oh!... How strange.

**Benjamin** Are you all right?

**Joseph** I think so... but it was all so vivid.

**Benjamin** What?... Did you have a dream?

**Joseph** Yes. It must have been. But it was so real.

**Benjamin** What was it about?...

*(As the following song develops, the brothers come one by one to overhear what Joseph is telling Benjamin, unbeknown to both. The brothers barely contain their hysterical reaction, making fun of Joseph behind his back)*

**Joseph** I'm not quite sure. Let me try to explain it.

**SONG: “THE DREAM”**

**Joseph** I dreamed the very strangest dreams that ever came to me  
In fact, they were the very strangest dreams I hope to see  
We brothers were all binding the sheaves of grain we bind  
And then I saw the strangest thing to happen in my mind  
I saw them bow! Their stalks of wheat all bowed!  
They bowed to me somehow

*(Jacob now observes from a distance)*

Their stalks of wheat all bowed to me—  
Each brother's stalk of wheat bowed down, yes, it was plain to see  
I saw eleven stalks of wheat all bowing down to me  
I do not understand it, I cannot say just why  
But that is what I dreamed last night  
And that I can't deny

**Brothers**

*(Musical bridge as brothers hoot and howl with laughter)*

Oh, what a dream! A stupid, silly scheme!

That Joseph's full of beans

**Joseph** *(Earnestly)*

We think that he's gone daft at last—

But wait! I had another dream, a stranger dream to see

Eleven stars, the sun and moon converged and bowed to me!

**Reuben**

I think we've heard it all!

**Simeon Brothers Levi Brothers** And I think it's very clear—  
Our brother is delusional  
He's lost his mind I fear  
Yes, Joseph must be drinking too much wine  
And too much beer!  
*(Music continues briefly, fading)*

**Reuben** He's gone too far this time!  
**Levi** Ridiculous!  
**Simeon** It's all gone to his head! Everything Father's promised him about his authority has filled his fat head with delusions of grandeur.  
**Judah** He already thinks he's our king!  
**Issachar** I've had more than my fill of him!  
**Simeon** Hey, Joseph! I had a dream too! I dreamed there were eleven frogs. And the ugliest, fattest frog with the biggest mouth croaked all day to Father little froggy tattle tales about his brothers!  
**Reuben** And I suppose Father will bow down to you, too?  
**Simeon** Wait 'til he hears about these wild dreams!  
**Jacob** *(Surprising brothers)* I've heard enough!... All I need to hear.  
**Simeon** But Father! This sort of dreaming has got to stop!  
**Jacob** Now, Simeon, that is an even sillier notion than any of Joseph's dreams. Shall I command the young man to stop dreaming?... *(To Joseph)* What **are** these dreams, Joseph? Will all of us actually come and bow down to the ground before you?  
**Joseph** I don't know, Father.  
**Reuben** *(Mimicking)* "I don't know, Father."  
**Jacob** *(Overhearing Reuben)* Well, of course he doesn't know. Do you know the meaning of every dream you dream?  
**Simeon** But he doesn't know anything about anything. He's too inexperienced! And you place him above the eldest?!  
**Jacob** Oh, that's fine coming from you, Simeon—the great dreamer of frogs!  
**Reuben** But Joseph's dreams are strange, even for him. He shouldn't be in authority.  
**Jacob** Yes, you'd like that, wouldn't you? Dreams are sometimes of God. In God's time, the dreams may be made clear. In the meantime, my decisions stand. Now go.  
**Reuben** But Father—  
**Jacob** Dreams do not change what happened with you and Bilhah! Or what happened at Shechem! I've given you my final word! Now go take care of the sheep... Joseph will be along later. Go! I'll see you when you return...  
*(Music begins. Underscore: "The Legacy," transitioning to "God of Israel")*  
*(The brothers exit, murmuring discontentedly)*  
**Jacob** Well, Joseph. Maybe I'm too hard on all of them... But God knows I've tried to teach them what is right. I wish so many things for them— God's best. But I cannot forget what they have done... Nevertheless, perhaps we should be more sensitive. You and Benjamin—the children of my old age— I suppose you have received more of my time, perhaps. They may see that as more love. But I do love them. I wish they could see that... In any case, let us try to bring peace to our family. Be careful with them, won't you?  
**Joseph** Yes, Father.  
**Jacob** Let me know how they are managing. And let us both pray for them.  
**Joseph** Of course, Father.  
**Jacob** I could use your help with the firewood before you depart for the fields.  
**Joseph** Whatever I can do, Father...  
*(Jacob lovingly escorts Joseph, hand on shoulder, to exit)*

## SCENE 6: A FIELD NEAR SHECHEM AND DOTHAN IN CANAAN (Parts A-E)

(A)

*(The brothers meander conversationally in audience area)*

**Simeon** Well, it's certainly good to be away from our new little master! At least for a little while. I'm in no hurry to see him anytime soon either.

**Reuben** Ha! The Great Dreamer!

**Levi** Dreamer of Dreams! Courier of Coats! Master of Men! And Tattler of Tales!

**Judah** He'd have us all bowing and scraping like servants!

**Issachar** He thinks he's some sort of soothsayer or prophet!

**Zebulun** He's just a weasel!

**Naphtali** What if the great dreamer is a prophet?

**Dan** Ha! That's a good one! I'd like him to make me bow!

**Gad** He makes me sick!

**Asher** Parading around in that fancy coat!

**Zebulun** When was the last time you were that warm? We should all have such coats.

**Simeon** I say we don't go all the way to Shechem.

**Reuben** Oh, so you're giving the orders now?

**Simeon** I say we go to Dothan.

**Levi** Oh, you do, eh? And I suppose you had a dream!

*(All laugh)*

**Judah** Why not? Runs in the family!

*(All laugh)*

**Simeon** I only dream of food, wine, and women. But if we were to go to Dothan, who would know?

**Levi** Ah ha! And who could find us? Who could spy on us?

**Simeon** The only way a certain someone could find our camp would be if—

**Judah** If he had a dream telling him where we are!

*(All laugh)*

**Reuben** Then, to Dothan we go!

**Simeon** How about a sheep to eat on the way? No tattlers to tell!

**Others** I'm starved! Let's do it! Why not? Good idea! I'll get the sheep! Etc.

*(Brothers set up "camp" on main stage area)*

**(B)** *(Joseph follows path of the brothers in audience, obviously searching for them)*

**Joseph** Brothers!... Brothers!...

**SONG: "GOD OF ISRAEL" (Reprise)**

**Joseph** Bless my brothers, bless them one and all  
 May we all be worthy of Your call  
 You are the Lord, the God of Abraham who dwells  
 With us, in us, oh God of Israel  
 Bless You, oh bless You, God of Abraham who dwells  
 With us, in us, oh God of Israel  
 God of Israel— God of Israel  
*(Music continues as underscore, transitioning to "The Gambit")*

**Joseph** Hmm. They should be around here somewhere.

**The Stranger** *(Suddenly lit)* What are you looking for?

**Joseph** *(Startled)* Oh. I didn't see you. I'm looking for my brothers. Can you tell me where they are grazing their flocks?

**The Stranger** They have moved on from here. I heard them say they were going to Dothan. *(No longer lit, The Stranger "disappears")*

**Joseph** To Dothan. That's strange. I wonder why they— *(Turning to Stranger)* Say, can you tell me when— ? He's gone... Oh well. On to Dothan... *(Joseph exits, temporarily out of view)*

**(C)** *(The brothers are seen around camp fire on main stage)*

**SONG: "THE GAMBIT" (Reprise)**



**Simeon** I must say it's great to be far and away  
From dreamers of dreams and from those who betray

**Levi** I cannot describe just how sick he makes me

**All** He's nothing but trouble, on that we agree!

**Judah** *(Looking afar)* Well, I hate to deliver some unhappy news  
But I think that the dreamer's in sight  
I am sorry to say I think he's on the way  
We're in for a miserable night!—  
We're in for a miserable night!  
*(Music continues as underscore: "The Legacy," reverts to "The Gambit")*

**All**

**Reuben** Oh no! It **is** him!

**Simeon** It's him **all** right! Our new master!

**Levi** Joseph and his wonderful coat!

**Simeon** I swear I could **rip** it right off his back!

**Judah** How on God's earth did he know where to find us?

**Issachar** He must have had another dream after all.

**Zebulun** He'll just spy on us and run to Father with reports!

**Joseph** *(From behind audience)* Brothers! There you are!... I'm coming!

**Reuben** *(Disdainfully)* Yes. We know!

**Levi** How much more of him can we take?

**Judah** Quick! Hide the skin of the sheep we ate!

**Simeon** Why? Why should we?— I'm tired of living like frightened shadows of ourselves. I say we put an end to this. Here and now! Let's get it over and be done with it— be done with him. I say we kill him!

**Reuben** What?

**Simeon** You heard me. Let's kill him and **be** done with him.

**Reuben** Hold your tongue, brother. How can you think such a thing?

**Simeon** We've all murdered him in our minds a hundred times. Don't tell me there isn't one of us here who hasn't wished him out of our lives! So let's do it.

**Reuben** Never! Teaching him a lesson is one thing, but spilling our own brother's blood is—

**Simeon** Don't give me that! He's hardly any of our grand ideal of a brother. I say kill him and get him out of our lives forever!!

**Levi** Why not? It could happen, A long journey by himself. Wild animals. Robbers and thieves, mountain lions. Who knows what could befall him?

**Reuben** We tried deceiving Father once and look what happened. He saw right through us.

**Simeon** That's what will make it so believable this time. Father would never expect another lie— especially about Joseph. Let's kill him!

**Joseph** Hello brothers! I'm coming!

**Reuben** Don't shed any blood! Throw him over in this desert cistern here, but don't kill him.

**Simeon** No wonder you're no longer in charge. No courage.

**Reuben** Have you thought of the curse that would come down on us? Stop this madness. Don't let what happened at Shechem repeat itself.

**Simeon** Listen to the great moral authority! And what did you tell Bilhah when you dragged her to your bed?

**Reuben** Stop! Before it's too late. Don't do it, Simeon!

**Joseph** *(Appearing on the scene)* Don't do what?

**Reuben** *(To Joseph)* Nothing. Stay out of it! *(To Simeon)* We'll have our own way when Father is gone.

**Joseph** What's going on?

**Levi** Never mind. We don't speak to those who are from such a higher station than we. We're not worthy!

**Simeon** *(To Reuben)* You must have a lot more patience than I have, brother Reuben. But we can't stand it any more and we're not going to wait years for Father.

**Joseph** What are you talking about? What about Father?

**Levi** Come for more tales to tell?

**Joseph** Father only wants to know how you are. I cannot help that he thinks I'm the one to tell him.  
**Simeon** Spy all you like. But if you spy on me, it's the last thing you'll ever do!  
**Reuben** No, Simeon!  
**Simeon** Shut up, Reuben!  
**Joseph** I'll do what Father tells me to do.  
**Simeon** I'm warning you— !  
**Joseph** And maybe he should know you've had too much wine to drink.  
**Simeon** Why, you— !

*(Music rises)*

*(All but Reuben savagely pounce upon Joseph, taking off his coat, and dragging him to the "cistern," where he is thrown as he screams)*

**Joseph** Nooo! Brothers! No, please don't! Etc.

**The Brothers** *(Angrily)* *(After intense musical interlude, song resumes)*  
Dreamer of dreams, we are weary of you!  
Your defects are many, your qualities few  
And so we've decided our paths will part here  
Good riddance to you, Joseph, our brother dear!  
Your fav'rite son status now draws to a close  
Your arrogant dreaming, your carping, your clothes  
You think that we're angry? There's more now beside  
**Simeon** If not for dear Reuben here, you would have died!  
I can't help thinking of, just when push came to shove  
That you, Reuben, strayed from the fray  
I will not soon forget that you owe us a debt  
For not helping us here today!  
*(Music continues as underscore)*

**Reuben** No, I didn't help. You've gone too far this time... And now we'll pay for it... *(Exits)*  
**Levi** He's just walking away! What if he tells Father?  
**Simeon** He doesn't have the courage. Besides, he'll be the first in the line of succession. He has the most to gain— who else will Father put in the place of the eldest with Joseph out of the way? We have nothing to fear from Reuben.  
**Joseph** *(Voice from "cistern pit")* Brothers!... Help me!... Please, brothers!... Etc.  
**Levi** I wish we didn't have to listen to his incessant howling!  
**Simeon** I've had enough of him! Enough!  
*(Simeon picks up a large stone to throw upon Joseph in the "pit," raises it high above his head and stops cold, looking up to hear)*

**(D)** *(Music rises, transitioning to following reprise with "Eastern flavor")*

*(A small caravan of Midianite slaves, led by "The Slave Broker," appears through audience)*

### **SONG: "JOSEPH!" (Reprise)**

**Broker** Move on! Don't be lagging!  
Move on! Don't be sagging!  
Move on! Don't be dragging now!  
*(Musical interlude)*

**Simeon** Look there! A slave caravan.  
**Levi** It's the Ishmaelites from Gilead.

**Judah** On their way to Egypt. This could be the answer! What will we gain if we kill our brother and cover up his blood? Let's sell him! We'll sell him to the Ishmaelites and not lay our hands on him. He is our own brother after all.

**Levi** What if he escapes?

**Judah** Escape? You must be mad. No one escapes from Egypt. Let's sell him— and be done.

**Simeon** *(After a pause, having looked at all the brothers)... Agreed.*

*(Song resumes)*

**Broker** Move on— don't be dragging, don't be slow! (Ohhh—)

**Brothers** Move on— we have very far to go! (Ohhh—)

You there! We have one to sell!

A youthful infidel!

Right here down in this well!—

We'll pull him out for you

He'll be as good as new

And you will see it's true

He'll behave!

He has what others lack

Good teeth and sturdy back

In short, to be exact

One fine slave— one fine slave

Slave for sale!

Sturdy, strong, robust and hale!

Buy now! He's going cheap!

This one will earn his keep!

Works hard and never sleeps—

Now on sale! Slave for sale!

*(Musical interlude)*

*(Joseph is removed from "pit;" Broker eagerly looks Joseph over as Simeon whispers to him)*

*(Broker examines Joseph)*

**Levi** *(To Simeon)* I don't know about that last part! If he never slept, we wouldn't hear of his stupid dreams!

**Simeon** Let it be our little secret. *(Simeon and Levi giggle)*

**Broker** Sold! *(Hands coin pouch to Judah)*

*(Amidst Joseph's pleas and protests, Broker has Joseph bound and he is led to the caravan)*

**Judah** Twenty pieces of silver... the going price... for a brother...

*(Song resumes)*

**Brothers** *(As caravan departs)* Joseph! Not so brave now!

Joseph! You're a slave now!

Joseph! You'll behave now, slave! Slave!

Twenty silver coins for a "such a man"

Ah— ah— ah— ah—

**Broker** Sold out! By his brothers, by his clan! (Ha ha!)

**Brothers** Ah— ah— ah— ah—

**Broker** Sold out! And by his brothers banned!

Though I don't understand—

I have the upper hand! (Ha ha!)

**Brothers** Joseph! Dug your grave now!

Joseph! You're a slave now!

Joseph! You'll behave now, slave!

*(Musical interlude)*

**Reuben** Noooo! What have you done?

**Simeon** It's what we have done, brother. It's on your head too.

**Reuben** *(Sinking to knees)* No! *(Crying)* No!

**Simeon** It's a little late for tears. What's done is done.

**Reuben**

Where... can I turn now?...

*(Over the following, the brothers bring on a “slaughtered” goat and smear its blood on Joseph’s coat. Judah hands Reuben the coin pouch)*

**Brothers**

*(Song resumes)*

Joseph! Feel the lash now!

Joseph! In the past now!

Joseph! Gone at last for good! Good!

*(Spoken)* Good!

*(Segue to)*

**(E)**

*(The brothers exit through the audience; Jacob and company appear on main stage)*

**SONG: “GOD OF ISRAEL” (Reprise)**

**Jacob**

*(About to sacrifice  
lamb at altar)*

Gather ‘round my people and to God give praise

He is our Shepherd and He guides our ways

And He has led us to the land where we will dwell

The Lord is our God, the God of Israel...

*(Music continues as underscore)*

*(The brothers solemnly appear from audience and Jacob freezes upon seeing them. Simeon holds up Joseph’s blood-stained coat for Jacob to see)*

**Jacob**

*(Falling to his knees)* Nooo! Nooo!... *(Crying)* Joseph!... My Joseph!... A wild animal surely tore him to pieces... Joseph!... *(Hugging coat and weeping)*.. My son!...

*(As all but the brothers conclude song, Reuben turns from others and, out of Jacob’s line of vision, tearfully pulls out pouch of coins and throws it far away)*

**All**

*(Mournfully)*

*(Song resumes)*

Lord, our God, have mercy on us all—

Help us, Father, hear us as we call

Help us, dear Lord, the God of Abraham who dwells

With us, in us, oh God of Israel—

God of Israel— God of Israel—

*(All exit)*

*(Segue to)*

**SCENE 7: THE TERRACE ON POTIPHAR’S ESTATE IN EGYPT**

*(Joseph is with Potiphar, concluding his tale to this point)*

**SONG: “THE LEGACY” (Reprise)**

**Joseph**

And so you’ve heard the tragic story

Of how I came to be here serving you

I take no pride, I take no glory

In telling you this tale, but it is true

Though my brothers are schemers

And I am a dreamer

I serve my Redeemer who

Despite all my sorrow

Today and tomorrow

He loves me and sees me through—  
God loves me and sees me through  
*(Music continues as underscore; segue to next song)*

**Potiphar** Yes... Yes, I see. A case can be made that your God does see you through.  
**Joseph** And so I can never betray my Lord God Jehovah. I seek to walk in the ways of my Lord always. I will honor my God... *(Begins to cry)*... my father, Jacob... and the memory of my mother, Rachel... *(Embarrassed by his tears)* Forgive me, Master...  
**Potiphar** *(Lost in thought)* Yes... Yes... *(At length, he rises and re-ties Joseph's wrists together)*... Is there anything else you wish to say to me?  
**Joseph** *(After a pause)* No, Master. That is all.  
**Potiphar** *(Claps his hands)* Semenka! Assemble the household and members of my estate.  
**Semenka** *(Entering)* Yes, Master Potiphar. *(He claps his hands)*  
*(The members of the household and estate assemble)*  
**Potiphar** *(Solemnly)* I have heard the reports of my household and have carefully weighed them. Here now is the conclusion of this matter, So shall it be written, so shall it be done. The slave, Joseph, shall be escorted to and held in the prison of Pharaoh under my supervision and that of the Chief Jailer, who shall monitor him. Thus shall this matter now be concluded... You may take the prisoner away.  
*(Joseph is escorted out amidst the shocked members of the company)*  
**Ningal** *(Coldly to Potiphar)* How can you let this man live?  
**Potiphar** I know you wife. And I know Joseph. And I think I know where the truth likely lies.  
**Ningal** I have never been so humiliated... you might as well release him. Make him a free man for all I care!  
**Potiphar** He's already a free man... because his God goes with him wherever he goes.  
*(Music rises: "A Plea to Jehovah")*

#### SCENE 8: PHARAOH'S PRISON IN EGYPT

*(Joseph is roughly pushed and dragged through audience to "prison cell" on main stage. He sadly examines his surroundings and, stretching out his arms and clinging to the bars, his silhouette resembles a cross. He slowly sinks to his knees and begins singing)*

#### **SONG: "A PLEA TO JEHOVAH" (Reprise)**

**Joseph**  
Father! I am but one small man  
Father— Take me into Your hands  
Your will, Your plans—  
One day, a slave to savor  
The next, condemned disfavor  
But just as before, I bow to the Lord  
My heart, life, and soul, are Yours  
Jehovah— My Father—  
Please help me, my Father  
I look— to— You—

*(Black out)*

**End of ACT I**  
**ACT II**

**Entr'acte**

**SCENE 1: PHARAOH'S PRISON IN EGYPT (Parts A-C)**

*(As Joseph sings the following song, Potiphar escorts the Cupbearer and Baker to Joseph's cell.  
They receive Joseph's sentiments sneeringly)*

**(A)**

**SONG: "JOSEPH'S PRAYER"**

**Joseph**

Lord, I am discouraged  
I need your courage to go on—  
Where is my promised destiny?  
The dreams now seem so wrong—  
Is there any hope for me?  
Lord, hear my plaintive song  
Lord, hear my sighs, Lord, hear my cries  
When will I rise to carry on?  
Father, dear Father  
I know You'll see me through  
Father, dear Father  
I won't abandon You  
You know my prayer  
You show Your care  
You are aware  
Of all I do  
Now take my hand  
You understand  
And You will plan  
The path I choose  
Lord, when I'm drifting  
You are uplifting in Your way  
For when I listen to Your voice  
I hear just what You say  
And though I'm weak and weary  
And though the skies are gray  
I can depend on You, my Friend

**Potiphar**

To bring a helpful, bright new day  
I'll give You time to help me climb  
And I'll incline my ear Your way—  
Joseph, oh Joseph— Your God will see you through  
*(Music continues as brief underscore, then fades)*

**Joseph  
Potiphar**

Peace be with you, Master.  
And to you, Joseph. I mean what I say. The excellence of your work— even here in jail— is well known even in the Palace. Pharaoh himself is aware of your administration and economy measures. After all, the Chief Jailer put you in charge. *(Comic in his immodesty)* Of course, I had something to do with that— ahem!— But even he could see right away what kind of a man you are. The prisoners have never been more orderly until under your care. They eat better, sleep better, and drink and bathe in cleaner water— all for less money than the palace spent before you came here! Pharaoh must ask me a dozen times a day how on earth you do it.

**Joseph  
Potiphar**

Not I, Master. It is the Lord's doing. God does bless me. Even here.  
Well, yes. Your God. I'm beginning to see that now. But I wouldn't dare mention such a thing to Pharaoh! He'd have your head. Ra, god of the sun, is the god of choice here... unless your God plans to visit Pharaoh and knock the statue of Ra off his pedestal.  
*(Music ends)*

**Joseph  
Potiphar**

Perhaps He will.  
Ra is so important to Pharaoh. That he was enraged when his golden sun bracelet was discovered missing. That's why these two men are here. *(Pointing)* The Pharaoh's Cupbearer... and Baker. Both had access to the bracelet when it was deemed stolen. *(Confidentially)* If you overhear anything— anything that may help— do let me know. Help me, and I'll do everything I can to plead your case before Pharaoh... and treat them well. One day, they may get out... May your God be with you... *(Exits)*

*(Music begins: a sinister introduction to "Where is He Now?")*

**(B)**

**Baker**

*(Joseph pauses, seemingly uncertain of how to approach the prisoners)*

**Joseph**

Well, what are you looking at?

**Cupbearer**

I am Joseph, my lords.

**Baker**

So we've heard.

**Cupbearer**

We know all about you. We know how you got in good around here. Connections! *(The Baker and Cupbearer laugh)*

**Baker**

Yes, you serve your masters well, don't you?

**Joseph**

And their wives! *(More laughter)*

**Baker**

Not all rumors are true.

**Cupbearer**

Oh, is that so? Are you calling Potiphar's wife a liar? Or me? Maybe I'm a liar too? Maybe you need to understand the new pecking order around here!

**Baker**

Watch yourself... we're in his prison, after all.

He's still a slave! And an impertinent one at that! How dare you slander the house of Potiphar, Steward of the Pharaoh? *(He begins brutally beating Joseph and throwing stomach punches)* It's time you learned your place, oh Great One! You stench-ridden slave! Slave!... Slave!... Had enough? Ha ha ha! Where are you? I don't see you! Where's this wonderful God of yours now?...

### **SONG: "WHERE IS HE NOW?"**

**Baker**

You speak so highly of this God who has abandoned you  
Is it not clear to you by now He is not there?  
Can you not see the clouds have lost their silver lining?

**Cupbearer**

All that is left for us is darkness and despair  
From rich man's son you're made a slave and now a prisoner  
This sad decline must now be wearing on your faith  
For any God who treats his followers like yours does

Must surely not be quite as wondrous as you say—

**Both**

Where is he now?  
Where is he now when you are aching  
When the shackles cut your feet?  
Where is He when you shiver through the night  
And your food's not fit to eat?  
Where is He now?  
(Brief musical interlude)

**Baker**

(Spoken) Ha ha! Well?... Where is He? (Joseph is still doubled over)... Hmmph! You're speechless, I see. Just as I thought. A mere mortal slave. (To Cupbearer) No sense wasting any more time on him! Might as well sleep... (They lie down) Nighty-night!

**Joseph**

(Softly, then as he rises, he gains vocal strength to triumphant finish)

(Music rises and builds to crescendo; a song resumes)  
Somewhere hidden in tomorrow lies the answer  
I cannot see it, but I know— I know it's there  
And if I die before I learn it, I will trust Him  
For I am certain that I serve a God who cares

And in my darkest days He shines His light inside me  
And when I'm cold He holds me safe inside His hand  
And when I cry out in confusion, then He tells me  
My every circumstance somehow fits His plan

My God wants greater things for me than outward happiness  
He wants to show me that He'll never leave my side  
These prison walls are just the way He keeps on teaching me  
The greatest joy in life is knowing He's inside

(Coda)

I know you're there, for I can feel You  
Even in this foreign land  
You have guided all my yesterdays  
In the dark I'll hold Your hand  
I know you're there— I know You're there—  
I know You're there— !  
(Music continues briefly, then fades)

(Slow black out as Joseph settles down to sleep. Lights slowly rise)

**(C)**

**Baker**

(The Baker and Cupbearer make strange murmurs as lights rise)

**Cupbearer**

Ahhh! (Awakening) Ohhhh!

**Baker**

(Awakening) Oh my! What's happening? I— ohhh—

**Cupbearer**

What's the matter?

**Baker**

Ohh— oh, it's you. What a night! An incredible night... An incredible dream!

**Cupbearer**

(Joseph stirs)

**Baker**

I'm exhausted. I don't feel as if I slept at all. Dreams! Nothing but dreams!

That's how I feel. One moment, I'm talking with this Hebrew and the next I'm in the middle of the most vivid dream I—

**Cupbearer**

That's it!

**Baker**

What?

**Cupbearer**

The Hebrew! I overheard Potiphar speak of this man's dreams. He has a way with dreams somehow. Perhaps he can help.

**Baker**

I certainly can't endure another night like this last one. (To Joseph) You there! (Roughly pulling Joseph up) We've had dreams. He says you know something about dreams.



**Cupbearer** A most terrible dream. Most haunting! Perhaps you can explain the meaning.  
**Joseph** If God so chooses.

*(Music begins)*

**Baker** Ha! Your God again!  
**Joseph** Interpretations belong to God and come from God.  
**Cupbearer** It matters not to me, but I do wish you'd help. I don't mind admitting I'm a little frightened.  
**Joseph** Very well. Tell me your dreams...  
*(The dreams described are acted out, possibly with shadowy doubles)*

### **SONG: "THE DREAMS" (Reprise)**

**Cupbearer** I dreamed the very strangest dream that ever came to me  
In fact, it was the strangest dream I ever hope to see!  
I saw a vine, and on the vine were branches— there were three  
And then, before my eyes, I saw the strangest thing to see  
I saw them bloom! Yes, very soon they bloomed—  
I could not even prune  
These blossoms that ballooned to clusters—  
These clusters were the ripest grapes you'd ever hope to see  
I squeezed the grapes into a wine befitting royalty...  
I poured the wine for Pharaoh to finish out my dream—  
Now, tell me, Joseph, tell me please, just what can all this mean?  
*(Musical interlude)*

**Joseph** The three branches are three days. Within three days, Pharaoh will lift up your head— and restore you to your position. And you will place Pharaoh's cup in his hand just as you used to do when you were his cupbearer.

**Cupbearer** Oh, my. That is good news. I hope it's true.  
**Joseph** When all goes well with you, please remember me and show me kindness.

**Cupbearer** *(Still dazed by this news)* What?

**Joseph** Please mention me to Pharaoh and get me out of this prison. I was forcibly carried off from the land of the Hebrews. And even here, I have done nothing to deserve being placed in a dungeon.

**Baker** Never mind that, glory hog! Tell me about my dream!

**Joseph** Very well... tell me your dream.

*(Song resumes)*

**Baker** I also dreamed the strangest dream that ever came to me  
I saw some baskets on my head, in fact, I carried three  
The basket on the top was filled with pastry and some bread  
And then before my eyes some birds swoop down upon my head  
They pecked the bread! They took it from my head!  
These birds became well fed  
From eating bread upon my head, oh—  
Oh, Joseph, is there something you can tell me of this dream?  
I must say that it troubles me, so tell me what it means  
*(Slower tempo, ominous)*

**Joseph** *(Reluctant)* The meaning of your dream is such that Heaven only knows  
*(Brief musical bridge)*

**Baker** *(Spoken, angrily)* You know the meaning! Tell me! Tell me now!

**Joseph** *(Singing)* It is the kind of dream that I would rather not disclose  
*(Music continues ominously)*

**Baker** Well, disclose it anyway! Tell me what it means.

**Joseph** *(Still reluctant)* Very well. I must tell you, then, that the three baskets are also three days. Within three days, Pharaoh, will also lift up your head. He will lift it up in order to tie a rope around your neck and hang you from a tree. And the birds will come to peck your flesh.

**Baker** No! Nooo! *(Strikes Joseph, knocking him to ground)* You insolent slave! You're just saying that! I'll teach you to show more respect to— *(Baker is suddenly stopped cold when he looks up to realize Potiphar and a small contingent have arrived and have been observing)*

**Potiphar** *(Coldly)* Leave him be.

**Baker** Lord Potiphar. I was— er— merely—

**Potiphar** Never mind. The Pharaoh's golden sun bracelet of Ra has been discovered... and recovered. Consequently, the Pharaoh has issued warrants in your cases. *(To Cupbearer)* You are to be released. In three days, a special banquet will be held in honor of Pharaoh's birthday. You are to serve at the banquet in your former capacity as cupbearer. You are hereby restored.

**Cupbearer** Praise be to Ra!

**Potiphar** *(To contingent)* Escort this man to the Palace.

**Joseph** *(To Cupbearer)* I trust your stay was satisfactory... please remember me. *(The Cupbearer leaves without a word)*

**Potiphar** *(To Baker)* You also will leave this place and appear at Pharaoh's birthday celebration. Shortly after the banquet, Pharaoh and the invited officials will adjourn to the palace courtyard so they may witness... your execution. You will be hanged from the courtyard tree... three days from now.

**Baker** No!

**Potiphar** *(To contingent)* Take this man to the lower holding cell.

**Baker** *(As he is dragged off)* No! Noooooo!— Noooooo!  
*(Joseph is clearly shaken by the truth of his interpretations. Potiphar looks at him sympathetically, and exits)*  
*(Music rises)*

## SCENE 2: AN OASIS NEAR JACOB'S ENCAMPMENT NEAR DOTHAN (Audience Area)

*(Older, slightly feeble Jacob walks with his grown son, Benjamin)*

**Benjamin** Father, wouldn't I be more useful helping my brothers with the flocks?

**Jacob** They are strong, sturdy men used to their work. It is more important that you carry on the line now. You must carry on our traditions and the ways of the Lord.

**Benjamin** But Reuben and Judah and—

**Jacob** Benjamin— my Benjamin. I am afraid they have proven themselves unworthy over the years.

**Benjamin** But you mustn't blame them for the wild animal that took Joseph.

**Jacob** It was God who took Joseph. Benjamin, I have come to see that it's all some part of His plan. My love for your mother, Rachel, was special. I am convinced God brought her into our family to bring us the next in line. That would have been Joseph. Now it falls to you. You must maintain Abraham's covenant with our Lord— blessed be His name... Now, let us continue my son—  
*(They begin walking away)*

**Benjamin** And the sons of Abraham were Isaac and Ishmael... and Isaac begat Esau and Jacob... and Jacob begat Reuben and Judah and... *(Both exit)*  
*(Music rises)*  
*(Egyptian/ Eastern fanfare)*

## SCENE 3: PHARAOH'S PALACE IN EGYPT

*(Pharaoh is sleeping on his bed, surrounded by women who fan him in shadows)*

### **SONG: "THE GAMBIT" (Reprise)**

*(As the music plays, appearing at side is realistic puppetry rendering a scene of large ears of corn being "devoured" by smaller ears of corn)*