

When Brothers Dwell Together: The Preeminence Of Younger Siblings In The Hebrew Bible

But Joseph said to them, 'Fear not, for am I in the place of God? As for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones.' Thus he reassured them and comforted them (50.19-21).

Joseph's concise summary of the past, his intricate interaction with his brothers and God's relation with them, centres on two obvious pairs of oppositions: divine intention/human intention and good/evil ('You meant evil against me; but God meant it for good'). Any portrayal of Joseph will not be complete without confronting this claim and its implied oppositions. There are other series of binary oppositions intertwined with these two pairs within the narrative and its interpretations by many historical-critical or literary scholars. The prominent ones are lord/slave, life/death, brother/foreigner, and knowledge/ignorance.⁵ Under close scrutiny of the text, these oppositions do not provide a sustainable and authoritative anchor for the argument within the narrative. As a result, interpretations relying uncritically on these oppositions will soon be found wanting. Deconstruction warns us that one always undermines what one has affirmed due to unexamined hierarchical oppositions. This chapter will chart this process of self-undermining in Joseph's famous theological dictum.

Joseph's dreams about his brothers and parents bowing down before him predict a relationship of lord/slave (or lord/servant, to use a less severe term) between them. The brothers plot to murder him in order to frustrate any chance of his dreams being fulfilled. Judah successfully persuades the brothers not to kill their own brother but to turn this master of dreams into a slave by selling him to foreigners. Instead of being a lord over his brothers, Joseph begins a downward turn from Canaan to Egypt, from being a favoured son to a slave in a foreigner's house and finally a slave in a prison. However, his ability to interpret dreams, at first for Pharaoh's two officers and later for Pharaoh himself, reverses his descent and finally helps him to rise from the position of a foreign slave in prison to be the lord over Egypt, second in power only to Pharaoh. Joseph's own dreams come true (at least partially) when his brothers come to bow down before him in their trip to Egypt to buy

5. Frederick E. Greenspahn in his book, *When Brothers Dwell Together: The Preeminence of Younger Siblings in the Hebrew Bible* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1994), offers an extensive discussion on the opposition of younger versus elder in Genesis.

When Brothers Dwell Together: The Preeminence of Younger Siblings in the Hebrew Bible by Frederick E. Greenspahn () Hardcover , English, Book edition: When brothers dwell together: the preeminence of younger siblings in the Hebrew Bible / Frederick E. Greenspahn. Greenspahn. Within the biblical context, this theme heightens God's role in supporting When Brothers Dwell Together: The Preeminence of Younger Siblings in the Hebrew. When When Brothers Dwell Together. The Preeminence of Younger. Siblings Siblings in the Hebrew Bible. By Frederick E. Greenspahn. Pp. xi + New York. When brothers dwell together: the preeminence of younger siblings in the Hebrew Bible / Frederick E. Greenspahn. Author: Greenspahn, Frederick E., -. When Brothers Dwell Together: The Preeminence of Younger Siblings in the Hebrew Bible. New York: Oxford University Press, xi, pp. When Brothers Dwell Together: The Preeminence. Of Younger Siblings In The Hebrew Bible by Frederick E. Greenspahn. Last Come - First Served Leonine. When Brothers Dwell Together: The Preeminence of Younger Siblings in the Hebrew Bible, by Frederick E. Greenspahn. New York/Oxford. Find great deals for When Brothers Dwell Together: The Preeminence of Younger Siblings in the Hebrew Bible by Frederick E. Greenspahn (, Hardcover). The Preeminence of Younger Siblings in the Hebrew Bible Frederick E. Greenspahn. Oxford University Press Oxford New York Toronto Delhi Bombay Calcutta. In his book, When Brothers Dwell Together: The Preeminence of Younger Siblings in the Hebrew Bible,1 Frederick E. Greenspahn explores the younger sibling. Scripture in the Jewish and Christian Traditions: Authority, Interpretation, When Brothers Dwell Together: The Preeminence of Younger Siblings in the Hebrew.

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