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CEPHER

YOCEPH
V' ACENATH

ALSO CALLED TEPHILLAH ACENATH

THE PRAYER OF ACENATH

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THE PRAYER OF ACENATH*

1 IN the first year of plenty, in the second month, on the fifth day of the month, Phar`oh sent Yoceph to go round all the land of Mitsrayim; and in the fourth month of the first year, on the eighteenth day of the month, Yoceph came to the borders of Heliopolis, and he was gathering the grain of that country as the sand of the sea. **2** And there was a certain man in that city by the name Potiy Phera, who was a priest of Heliopolis and a satrap of Phar`oh, and chief of all Phar`oh's satraps and princes; and this man was exceeding rich and very sage and gentle, and he was also a counselor of Phar`oh, because he was prudent beyond all Phar`oh's princes.

3 And he had a virgin daughter, by name Acenath, eighteen years of age, tall and comely, and beautiful to behold exceedingly beyond every virgin upon the earth. **4** Now Acenath herself bore no likeness to the virgins the daughters of the Mitsriym, but was in all things like the daughters of the Ivriym, being tall as Sarah and comely as Rivqah and beautiful as Rachel; **5** and the fame of her beauty spread abroad into all that land and to the ends of the world, so that by reason of this all the sons of the princes and the satraps desired to woo her, no, and the sons of the kings also, all young men and mighty, and there was great strife among them because of her, and they essayed to fight against one another.

6 And Phar`oh's firstborn son also heard about her, and he continued

entreating his father to give her to him to be his woman and saying to him: Give me, father, Acenath, the daughter of Potiy Phera, the "first man of Heliopolis to be his woman." **7** And his father Phar`oh said to him: " Why do you on your part seek a woman lower than yourself when you are king of all this land? No, but lo! the daughter of Yo`aqiym the King of Mo`av is betrothed to you, and she herself is a queen and beautiful to behold exceedingly. **8** Take then this one to yourself to be your woman."

2 **BUT** Acenath set at nought and scorned every man, being boastful and haughty, and never had a man seen her, inasmuch as Potiy Phera had in his house a tower adjoining, great and high exceedingly, and above the tower was a loft containing ten chambers. **2** And the first chamber was great and very lovely and paved with purple stones, and the walls thereof were faced with precious and many-colored stones, and the roof also of that chamber was of gold. **3** And within that chamber a number of elohiym of the Mitsriym of gold and silver were fixed; **4** and all those Acenath worshipped, and she feared them, and she performed sacrifices to them every day. **5** And the second chamber also contained all Acenath's adorning and chests, and there was gold in it, and much silver and gold-woven raiment unlimited, and stones choice and of great price, and fine garments of linen, and all the adornment

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of her virginity was there. **6** And the third chamber was Acenath's storehouse, containing all the good things of the earth. **7** And the remaining seven chambers the seven virgins who ministered to Acenath occupied, each one having one chamber, for that they were of the same age, born on the same night with Acenath, and she loved them much; and they were also beautiful exceedingly as the stars of heaven, and never did a man converse with them or a male child.

8 Now Acenath's great chamber where her virginity was fostered had three windows; and the first window was very large, looking over the court to the east; and the second looked toward the south, and the third looked over the street. **9** And a golden bedstead stood in the chamber looking toward the east; and the bed was laid with purple stuff interwoven with gold, the bed being woven of scarlet and crimson stuff and fine linen. **10** On this bed Acenath alone slept, and never had any man or other woman sat thereon.

11 And there was also a great court adjoining the house all round, and an exceeding high wall round the court built of great rectangular stones; and there were also four gates in the court overlaid with iron, and these were kept each by eighteen strong young men armed; **12** and there were also planted along the wall fair trees of all kinds and all bearing fruit, their fruit being ripe, for it was the season of harvest; and there was also a rich fount of water springing from the right of the same court; **13** and beneath the fount was a great cistern receiving the water of that fount, where there went, as it were, a river through the

midst of the court and it watered all the trees of that court.

3 **AND** it came to pass in the first year of the seven years of plenty, in the fourth month, on the twenty-eighth day of the month, that Yoceph came to the borders of Heliopolis collecting the grain of that district. **2** And, when Yoceph drew near to that city, he sent twelve men before him to Potiy Phera, the priest of Heliopolis, saying: "I will come in to you today, because it is the time of noon and of the midday meal, and there is great heat of the sun, and that I may cool myself under the roof of your house." **3** And Potiy Phera, when he heard these things, rejoiced with exceeding great joy, and said: "Blessed be YAHUAH ELOHIYM of Yoceph, because my lord Yoceph has thought me worthy." **5** And Potiy Phera called the overseer of his house and said to him: "Haste and make my house ready, and prepare a great dinner, because Yoceph the mighty one of YAHUAH comes to us today."

6 And, when Acenath heard that her father and mother had come from the possession of their inheritance, she rejoiced greatly and said: "I will go and see my father and mother, because they have come from the possession of our inheritance" (for it was the harvest season). **7** And Acenath hastened into her chamber where her robes lay and put on a fine linen robe made of crimson stuff and interwoven with gold, and girded herself with a golden girdle, and bracelets round her hands; **8** and about her feet she put golden buskins, and round her neck she cast an ornament of great price and precious stones, which were embellished on all sides, having also the names and the images of all the

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idols were formed upon them, both on the bracelets and the stones; **9** and she put also a tiara on her head and bound a diadem round her temples and covered her head with a mantle.

4 **AND** thereupon she hastened and went down the stairs from her loft and came to her father and mother and kissed them. **2** And Potiy Phera and his woman rejoiced over their daughter Acenath with exceeding great joy, for that they beheld her adorned and embellished as the bride of ELOHIYM; and they brought forth all the good things which they had brought from the possession of their inheritance and gave them to their daughter; **3** and Acenath rejoiced over all the good things, over the late summer fruit and the grapes and the dates and over the doves, and over the mulberries and the figs, because they were all fair and pleasant to taste.

4 And Potiy Phera said to his daughter Acenath: "Child." And she said: "Here I am, my lord." And he said to her: "Sit down between us, and I will speak to you my words." **5** And she sat down between her father and her mother, and Potiy Phera her father took hold of her right hand with his right hand and kissed it tenderly and said: "Dearest child." And she said to him: "Here I am, my lord father." **6** And Potiy Phera said to her: "Lo! Yoceph, the mighty one of YAHUAH, comes to us today, and this man is ruler of all the land of Mitsrayim; and King Phar`oh appointed him ruler of all our land and king, and he himself gives grain to all this country, and saves it from the coming famine; **7** and this Yoceph is a man that worships YAHUAH, and discreet and a virgin as you are today, and a man mighty in wisdom and knowledge, and the RUACH YAHUAH is

upon him and the grace of YAHUAH is in him. **8** Come, dearest child, and I will give you to him to be his woman, and you shall be to him for a bride, and he himself shall be your bridegroom forever."

9 And, when Acenath heard these words from her father, a great red sweat was poured out upon her over her face, and she waxed angry with great anger, and she looked askance with her eyes at her father and said: "Why, my lord father, do you speak these words? **10** Do you wish to give me over as a captive to an alien and a fugitive and one that has been sold? Is not this the son of the shepherd from the land of Kena`an? And thereafter, he was brought here? **11** Is not this he who lay with his mistress, and his lord cast him into the prison of darkness, and Phar`oh brought him out from the prison inasmuch as he interpreted his dream, as the older women of the Mitsriym also interpret? **12** No, but I will be married to the king's firstborn son, because he himself is king of all the land." **13** When he heard these things Potiy Phera was ashamed to speak further to his daughter Acenath about Yoceph, for she answered him with boastfulness and anger.

5 **AND LO!** A young man of Potiy Phera' servants sprang in, and he said to him: "Lo! Yoceph stands before the doors of our court." **2** And when Acenath heard these words she fled from the face of her father and mother and went up into the loft, and she came into her chamber and stood at the great window looking east to see Yoceph coming into her father's house. **3** And Potiy Phera came out and his woman and all their kindred and their servants to meet Yoceph; and, when the gates of the court that looked east were opened,

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Yoceph came in seated in the second chariot of Phar`oh; **4** and there were yoked four horses, white like snow, with golden bits, and the chariot was fashioned all of pure gold. **5** And Yoceph was clad in a tunic white and rare, and the robe that was thrown round him was purple, made of fine linen interwoven with gold, and a golden wreath was upon his head, **6** and round his wreath were twelve choice stones, and above the stones twelve golden rays, and in his right hand a royal staff, which had an olive branch outstretched, and there was abundance of fruit thereon.

7 When, then, Yoceph had come into the court and the doors thereof had been shut, and every strange man and woman remained outside the court, for that the guards of the gates drew to and closed the doors, Potiy Phera came and his woman and all their kindred except their daughter Acenath, and they made obeisance to Yoceph upon their faces upon the earth; **8** and Yoceph descended from his chariot and greeted them with his hand.

6 **AND** when Acenath saw Yoceph she was sorely pricked in the soul and her heart was crushed, and her knees were loosed and her whole body trembled and she feared with great fear, **2** and then she groaned and said in her heart: "Alas I am miserable! Where now shall I, the wretched one, go away? Or where shall I be hidden from his face? Or how shall Yoceph the son of ELOHIYM see me, for that on my part I have spoken evil things about him? **3** Alas I am most miserable! Where shall I go away and be hidden, because he himself sees every hiding place, and knows all things, and no hidden thing escapes him by reason of

the great light that is in him? **4** And now may the ELOHIYM of Yoceph be gracious to me because in ignorance I have spoken wicked words against him. What now shall I, the wretched one, follow?

5 Strange counselors deceived me, who said: Yoceph comes, the son of the shepherd from the land of Kena`an. **6** Now therefore he has come to us in his chariot as the sun from heaven, and he entered our house today, and he shines in it like light upon the earth. **7** But I am foolish and bold, because I scorned him and spoke evil words about him and did not know that Yoceph is a son of ELOHIYM. For who among men will ever father such beauty, or what womb of woman will give birth to such light? **8** Wretched am I and foolish, because I have spoken evil words to my father. Now, therefore, let my father give me to Yoceph for a handmaid and a bondwoman rather, and I will be in bondage to him forever."

7 **AND** Yoceph came into the house of Potiy Phera and sat upon a chair. And they washed his feet, and set a table before him separately, for that Yoceph did not eat with the Mitsriym, since this was an abomination to him. **2** And Yoceph looked up and saw Acenath peeping out, and he said to Potiy Phera: "Who is that woman who is standing in the loft by the window? Let her go away from this house." **3** For Yoceph feared, saying: "Lest she herself also annoy me." **4** For all the women and daughters of the princes and the satraps of all the land of Mitsrayim used to annoy him in order that they might lie with him; **5** but many women and daughters of the Mitsriym also, as many as beheld Yoceph, were distressed on account of his beauty; and the envoys whom the women sent to

him with gold and silver and precious gifts Yoceph sent back with threatening and insult, saying: "I will not sin in the sight of YAHUAH ELOHIYM and the face of my father Yashar'el." **6** For Yoceph had YAHUAH always before his eyes and ever remembered the injunctions of his father; for Ya`aqov often spoke and admonished his son Yoceph and all his sons: "Keep yourselves, children, securely from a strange woman so as not to have fellowship with her, for fellowship with her is ruin and destruction." **7** Therefore Yoceph said: "Let that woman depart from this house."

8 And Potiy Phera said to him: "My lord, that woman whom you have seen standing in the loft is not a stranger, but is our daughter, one who hates every man, and no other man has ever seen her save you only today; and, if you wish, lord, she shall come and speak to you, for that our daughter is as your sister." **9** And Yoceph rejoiced with exceeding great joy, for Potiy Phera said: "She is a virgin hating every man." **10** And Yoceph said to Potiy Phera and his woman: "If she is your daughter, and is a virgin, hating every man, she will never annoy me; let her come, for that she is my sister, and I love her from today as my sister."

8 **THEN** her mother went up into the loft and brought Acenath to Yoceph, and Potiy Phera said to her: "Kiss your brother, because he also is a virgin even as you today, and hates every strange woman even as you hate every strange man." **2** And Acenath said to Yoceph: Hail, lord, blessed of YAHUAH EL ELYON. **3** And Yoceph said to her: ELOHIYM who quickens all things shall bless you, girl. **4** Potiy Phera said then to his daughter Acenath: "Come and kiss

your brother." **5** When Acenath then came up to kiss Yoceph, Yoceph stretched forth his right hand, and laid it on her breast between her two paps (for her paps were already standing forth like lovely apples), **6** and Yoceph said: "It is not meet for a man who worships YAH, who blesses with his mouth the living YAHUAH, and eats the blessed bread of life, and drinks the blessed cup of immortality, and is anointed with the blessed unction of incorruption, to kiss a strange woman, who blesses with her mouth dead and deaf idols and eats from their table the bread of strangling and drinks from their libation the cup of deceit and is anointed with the unction of destruction; **7** but the man who worships ELOHIYM will kiss his mother and the sister who is born of his mother and the sister who is born of his tribe and the woman who shares his couch, who bless with their mouth the living YAHUAH. **8** Likewise also it is not proper for a woman who worships elohiym to kiss a strange man, for that this is an abomination in the sight of YAHUAH ELOHIYM.

9 And, when Acenath heard these words from Yoceph, she was sorely distressed and groaned; and, as she was looking steadfastly at Yoceph with her eyes open, they were filled with tears. **10** And Yoceph, when he saw her weeping, pitied her exceedingly, for that he was mild and merciful and one who feared YAHUAH. **11** Then he lifted up his right hand above her head and said: YAHUAH ELOHIYM of my father Yashar'el, EL ELYON and EL SHADDAI, who quickened all things and called from the darkness to the light and from error to truth and from death to life, bless you this virgin also, and quicken her, and renew her

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with your RUACH HAQODESH and let her eat the bread of life and drink the cup of your blessing, **12** and number her with your people whom you chose before all things were made, and let her enter into your rest which you prepared for your elect, and let her live in your eternal life forever."

9 **AND** Acenath rejoiced over the blessing of Yoceph with exceedingly great joy. Then she hastened and came up into her loft by herself, and fell upon her bed in infirmity, for that there was in her joy and sorrow and great fear; **2** and a continuous sweat poured out of her when she heard these words from Yoceph, and when he spoke to her in the name of ELOHIYM EL ELYON. **3** Then she wept with great and bitter weeping, and she turned in penitence from her elohiym whom she was accustomed to worship, and the idols, which she spurned, and waited for evening to come.

4 But Yoceph ate and drank; and he told his serving-men to yoke the horses to their chariots, and to go around all the land. **5** And Potiy Phera said to Yoceph: "Let my lord lodge here today, and in the morning, you shall go your way." **6** And Yoceph said: "No, but I will go away today, for that this is the day on which ELOHIYM began to make all his created things, and on the eighth day I also return to you and will lodge here."

10 **AND**, when Yoceph had left the house, Potiy Phera also and all his kindred departed to their inheritance, and Acenath was left alone with the seven virgins, listless and weeping till the sun set; **2** and she neither ate bread nor drank water, but while all slept she herself alone was awake and weeping

and frequently beating her breast with her hand.

3 And after these things Acenath rose from her bed, and went quietly down the stairs from the loft, and on coming to the gateway found the portress sleeping with her children; and she hastened and took down from the door the leathern cover of the curtain and filled it with cinders and carried it up to the loft and laid it on the floor. **4** And thereupon she shut the door securely and fastened it with the iron bolt from the side and groaned with great groaning together with very great weeping.

5 But the virgin whom Acenath loved above all the virgins having heard her groaning hastened and came to the door after awaking the other virgins also and found it shut. **6** And, when she had listened to the groaning and the weeping of Acenath, she said to her from without: What is it, my mistress, and why are you sad? And what is it that troubles you? Open to us and let us see you. **7** And Acenath said to her, being shut inside: "Great and grievous pain has attacked my head, and I am resting in my bed, and I am not able to rise and open to you, for I am infirmed over all my limbs. Go each of you to your chamber and sleep, and let me be still.

8 And, when the virgins had departed, each to her own chamber, Acenath rose and opened the door of her bedroom quietly, and went away into her second chamber where the chests of her adornment were, and she opened her coffer and took a black and somber tunic which she put on and mourned when her firstborn brother died. **9** Having taken, then, this tunic, she carried it into her chamber, and again shut the door securely, and put the bolt to from the

side. **10** Then, therefore, Acenath put off her royal robe, and put on the mourning tunic, and loosed her golden girdle and girded herself with a rope; and she put off the tiara, that is the miter, from her head, and also the diadem; **11** and the chains from her hands and her feet were also all laid upon the floor. Then she took her choice robe and the golden girdle and the miter and her diadem, and she cast them through the window that looked toward the north, to the poor. **12** And thereupon she took all her elohiym that were in her chamber, the elohiym of gold and of silver whereof there was no number, and broke them up into fragments, and cast them through the window to poor men and beggars. **13** And again, Acenath took her royal dinner and the fatlings and the fish and heifer's flesh, and all the sacrifices of her elohiym, and the vessels of the wine of libation, and cast them all through the window that looked north as food for the dogs.

14 And after these things she took the leathern cover containing the cinders and poured them upon the floor; and thereupon she took sackcloth and girded her loins; and she loosed also the net of the hair of her head and sprinkled ashes over her head. **15** And she strewed cinders also upon the floor, and fell upon the cinders and kept beating her breast constantly with her hands and weeping all the night with groaning until the morning. **16** And, when Acenath arose in the morning and saw, and lo! the cinders were beneath her as clay from her tears, she again fell upon her face upon the cinders till the sun set. **17** Thus Acenath did for seven days, not ever tasting anything.

11 **AND** on the eighth day, when the dawn came and the birds were already chirping and the dogs barking at the passersby, Acenath lifted up her head a little from the floor and the cinders whereon she was seated, for that she was exceeding weary and had lost the power of her limbs from her great humiliation; for Acenath had waxed weary and faint and her strength was failing, **2** and thereupon she turned toward the wall, sitting under the window that looked east; and her head she laid upon her bosom, twining the fingers of her hands over her right knee; and her mouth was shut, and she opened it not during the seven days and during the seven nights of her humiliation. **3** And she said in her heart, not opening her mouth: What shall I do, I the lowly one, or where shall I go? And with whom again shall I hereafter find refuge? **4** Or to whom shall I speak, the virgin that is an orphan and desolate and abandoned by all and hated? **5** All now have come to hate me, and among these even my father and my mother, for that I spurned the elohiym with loathing and made away with them and have given them to the poor to be destroyed by men. **6** For my father and my mother said: Acenath is not our daughter. But all my kin also have come to hate me, and all men, for that I have given their elohiym to destruction. **7** And I have hated every man and all who wooed me, and now in this my humiliation I have been hated by all and they rejoice over my tribulation.

8 But YAHUAH ELOHIYM of the mighty Yoceph hates all who worship the idols, for he is a jealous ELOHIYM and terrible against all who worship strange elohiym; for which he has hated me also, because I worshipped dead and deaf

idols and blessed them. **9** But now have I shunned their sacrifice, and my mouth has become estranged from their table, and I have no courage to call upon YAHUAH ELOHIYM of heaven, EL ELYON and powerful one of the mighty Yoceph, for that my mouth is polluted from the sacrifices of the idols. **10** But I have heard many saying that the ELOHIYM of the Ivriym is a true ELOHIYM, and a living ELOHIYM, and a merciful ELOHIYM and pitiful and longsuffering and full of mercy and gentle, and one who does not reckon the sin of a man who is humble, and especially of one who sins in ignorance, and does not convict of transgression in the time of the affliction of a man that is afflicted; **11** accordingly I also, the humble one, will be bold and will turn to him and seek refuge with him and confess all my sins to him and pour out my petition before him, and he will have mercy on my misery. **12** For who knows if he will see my humiliation and the desolation of my soul and pity me, and will see also the orphan-hood of my wretchedness and virginity and defend me? **13** For that, as I hear, he is himself a Father of orphans and a consolation of the afflicted and a helper of the persecuted. **14** But in any case, I, the humble one, will be bold and will cry to him.

12 **THEN** Acenath rose up from the wall where she was sitting, and raised herself upon her knees and directed her eyes toward heaven; and opened her mouth and said to YAHUAH: **2** YAHUAH YAHUAH of the righteous, who created the ages and gives life to all things, who gave the breath of life to all your creation, who brought the invisible things out into the light, who made all

things and made manifest things that did not appear, **3** who lifted up the heaven and founded the earth upon the waters, who fixed the great stones upon the abyss of the water, which shall not be submerged but are unto the end doing your will; **4** For that you, YAHUAH, said the word and all things came into being, and your word, YAHUAH, is the life of all your creatures, to you I flee for refuge; **5** YAHUAH ELOHAI, to you will I cry, YAHUAH and to you will I confess my sins, to you will I pour out my petition, YAHUAH, and to you will I reveal my transgressions.

6 Spare me, YAHUAH, spare, for that I committed many sins against you; I did lawlessness and wickedness, I have spoken things not to be uttered, and wicked in your sight; my mouth YAHUAH, has been polluted from the sacrifices of the idols of the Mitsriym, and from the table of their elohiym: **7** I have transgressed, YAHUAH, I transgressed in your sight, both in knowledge and in ignorance I did wickedness in that I worshipped dead and deaf idols, and I am not worthy to open my mouth to you, YAHUAH, **8** I the miserable Acenath daughter of Potiy Phera the priest, the virgin and queen, who was once proud and haughty and one that prospered in my father's riches above all men, but now an orphan and desolate and abandoned of all men. **9** To you I flee, YAHUAH, and to you I offer my petition, and to you will I cry. Deliver me from them that pursue me. **10** YAHUAH, before I be taken by them; for, as an infant in fear of someone flees to his father and mother, and his father stretches out his hands and catches him up against his breast you do also. **11** YAHUAH, stretch out your hands upon

me like a child-loving father, and catch me out of the hand of the supra-sensual enemy. **12** For lo! the ancient and savage and cruel lion pursues me, for that he is father of the elohiym of the Mitsriym, and the elohiym of the idol-maniacs are his children, and I have come to hate them, and I made away with them, because they are a lion's children, **13** and I cast all the elohiym of the Mitsriym from me and did them away, and the lion, or their father the devil, in wrath against me is trying to swallow me up.

14 But you, YAHUAH, deliver me from his hands, and I shall be rescued from his mouth, lest he tear me asunder and cast me into the flame of fire, and the fire cast me into storm, and the storm prevail over me in darkness and cast me into the depth of the sea, and the great beast who is from everlasting swallow me up, and I perish forever. **15** Deliver me, YAHUAH, before all these things come upon me; deliver me, YAHUAH, the desolate and defenseless, for that my father and my mother have denied me and said: Acenath is not our daughter; because I broke their elohiym in pieces and made away with them, as having wholly hated them. **16** And now I am an orphan and desolate, and I have no other hope save you, YAHUAH, nor another refuge save your mercy, you friend of men, because you only are Father of the orphans and champion of the persecuted and helper of the afflicted. **17** Have mercy on me, YAHUAH, and keep me pure and virgin, the forsaken and orphan, for that you only YAHUAH, are a good and gentle Father. **18** For what father is sweet and good as you, YAHUAH? **19** For lo! All the houses of my father Potiy Phera which he has given me for an inheritance are for a time and

vanishing; but the houses of your inheritance, YAHUAH, are incorruptible and eternal.

13 VISIT, YAHUAH, my humiliation and have mercy on my orphanhood and pity me, the afflicted. For lo! I, YAHUAH, fled from all and sought refuge with you the solitary friend of men. **2** Lo! I left all the good things of the earth and sought refuge with you. YAHUAH, in sackcloth and ashes, naked and alone. **3** Lo! Now I put off my royal robe of fine linen and of crimson stuff interwoven with gold and have put on a black tunic of mourning. **4** Lo! I have loosed my golden girdle and cast it from me, and girded myself with rope and sackcloth. **5** Lo! My diadem and my miter I have cast from my head and I have sprinkled myself with cinders; **6** Lo! The floor of my chamber that was paved with many-colored and purple stones, which was formerly moistened with ointments and was dried with bright linen cloths, is now moistened with my tears and has been dishonored in that it is strewn with ashes. **7** Lo! My YAHUAH, from the cinders and my tears much clay has been formed in my chamber as on a broad road. **8** Lo! My YAHUAH, my royal dinner and the meats I have given to the dogs. **9** Lo! I have also, YAHUAH, been fasting seven days and seven nights and neither ate bread nor drank water, and my mouth is dry as a wheel and my tongue as horn and my lips as a potsherd, and my face has shrunk, and my eyes have failed from shedding tears.

10 But you, YAHUAH ELOHAI, deliver me from my many ignorances, and forgive me for that, being a virgin and unknowing, I have gone astray. **11** Lo! now all the elohiym whom I

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worshipped before in ignorance I have now known to have been deaf and dead idols, and I broke them in pieces and gave them to be trampled on by all men, **12** and the thieves spoiled them, who were gold and silver, and with you I sought refuge. YAHUAH ELOHIYM, forgive me, YAHUAH, for that I committed many sins against you in ignorance and have spoken blasphemous words against my lord Yoceph, and I did not know; I, the miserable, that he is your son. **13** YAHUAH, since the wicked men urged by envy said to me: Yoceph is son of a shepherd from the land of Kena'an, and I the miserable one have believed them and went astray, and I set him as nothing and have spoken wicked things about him, not knowing that he is your son. **14** For who among men fathered or will ever father such beauty? Or who else is such as he, wise and mighty as Yoceph? **15** But to you, YAHUAH, I commit him, because for my part I love him more than my soul. **16** Keep him safe in the wisdom of your grace, and commit me to him for a handmaid and a bondwoman, that I may wash his feet and make his bed and minister to him and serve him, and I will be a bondwoman to him for the times of my life.

14 **AND**, when Acenath had ceased making confession to YAHUAH: Lo! the morning star also arose out of the heaven in the east; and Acenath saw it and rejoiced and said: "Has YAHUAH ELOHIYM then heard my prayer? For that this star is a messenger and herald of the height of the great day. **2** And lo! As she was still looking forth at the morning star the heaven was rent and a great and ineffable light appeared. **3** And

when she saw it Acenath fell upon her face upon the cinders, and straightway there came to her a man from heaven, and stood above her head, and said to her: Acenath, stand up. **4** And she said: Who is he who called me, for that the door of my chamber is shut and the tower is high, and how then have you come into my chamber? **5** And he called her again a second time, saying: Acenath, Acenath. **6** And she said: Here I am; tell me who you are. **7** And he said: I am the Prince (*sar*) of YAHUAH ELOHIYM and Commander of all the host of EL ELYON: stand up and stand upon your feet, that I may speak to you my words.

8 And she lifted up her face and saw, and lo! a man in all things like Yoceph, in robe and wreath and royal staff, save that his face was as lightning, and his eyes as the light of the sun, and the hairs of his head as the flame of fire, and his hands and his feet like iron shining from fire, for sparks proceeded both from his hands and from his feet. **9** Seeing these things, Acenath feared and fell on her face, for she became greatly afraid and all her limbs trembled. **10** And the man said to her: Be of good cheer, Acenath, and do not fear; but stand up and stand upon your feet, that I may speak to you my words.

11 Then Acenath stood up and stood upon her feet, and he said to her: Go without impediment into your second chamber and lay aside the black tunic wherein you are clad, and cast off the sackcloth from your loins, and shake out the cinders from your head, and wash your face and your hands with pure water and put on a white untouched robe and gird your loins with the bright girdle of virginity, the double one, and come again to me, and I will speak to you. **12**

YOCEPH V'ACENATH – The prayer of Acenath

Then Acenath hastened and went into her second chamber, wherein were the chests of her adorning, and opened her coffer and took a white, fine, untouched robe and put it on, having first put off the black robe, and ungirded also the rope and the sackcloth from her loins and girded herself in a bright, double girdle of her virginity, one girdle about her loins and another girdle about her breast. **13** And she shook out also the cinders from her head and washed her hands and face with pure water, and she took a mantle most beautiful and fine and veiled her head.

15 **AND** thereupon she came to the Prince (sar) and stood before him, and he said to her: Take now the mantle from your head, for you are today a pure virgin, and your head is as of a young man. **2** And Acenath took it from her head. **3** And again the Prince said to her: Be of good cheer, Acenath, the virgin and pure, for lo! YAHUAH ELOHIYM heard all the words of your confession and your prayer, and he has seen also the humiliation and affliction of the seven days of your abstinence, for that from your tears much clay has been formed before your face upon these cinders. **4** Accordingly, be of good cheer, Acenath, the virgin and pure, for lo! Your name has been written in the cephers of life and shall not be blotted out forever; but from this day you shall be renewed and refashioned and requickened, and you shall eat the blessed bread of life and drink a cup filled with immortality and be anointed with the blessed unction of incorruption. **5** Be of good cheer, Acenath, the virgin and pure, lo! YAHUAH ELOHIYM has given you today

to Yoceph for a bride, and he himself shall be your bridegroom forever.

6 And no more henceforth shalt you be called Acenath, but your name shall be *City of Refuge*, [עִיר מִקְלָט] (Iyr Miqlat) for that in you many nations shall seek refuge and they shall lodge under your wings, and many nations shall find shelter by your means, and upon your walls they who cleave to ELOHIYM EL ELYON through penitence shall be kept secure; **7** for that penitence is daughter of EL ELYON, and she herself entertains ELOHIYM EL ELYON for you every hour and for all that repent, since he is father of penitence, and she herself is the completion and overseer of all virgins, loving you exceedingly and beseeching EL ELYON for you every hour, **8** and for all who repent she will provide a place of rest in the heavens, and she renews everyone who has repented. **9** And penitence is exceeding fair, a virgin pure and gentle and mild; and therefore, YAHUAH EL ELYON loves her, and all the angels revere her, and I love her exceedingly, for that she herself also is my sister, and as she loves you virgins; I also love you.

10 And lo! For my part I go to Yoceph and will speak to him all these words concerning you, and he will come to you today and see you and rejoice over you and love you and be your bridegroom, and you shall be his beloved bride forever. **11** Accordingly hear me, Acenath, and put on a wedding robe, the ancient and first robe that is yet laid up in your chamber from of old, and put all your choice adorning also about you, and adorn thyself as a good bride and make yourself ready to meet him; **12** For lo! he himself comes to you today and will see you and rejoice. **13** And, when the angel

of YAHUAH in the shape of a man had finished speaking these words to Acenath, she rejoiced with great joy over all the things that were spoken by him, and fell upon her face upon the earth, and made obeisance before his feet and said to him: **14** Blessed is YAHUAH ELOHAYKEM who sent you to deliver me from the darkness and to bring me from the foundations of the abyss itself into the light, and blessed is your name forever. **15** If I have found grace, my Rabbi, in your sight and shall know that you will perform all the words which you have said to me so that they be accomplished, let your handmaid speak to you. **16** And he said to her: Say on. **17** And she said: I pray, Rabbi, sit down a little time upon this bed, because this bed is pure and undefiled, for no other man or other woman has ever sat upon it, and I will set before you a table and bread, and you shall eat, and I will bring you also wine old and good, the odour whereof shall reach to heaven, and you shall drink thereof and thereafter shall depart upon your way. **18** And he said to her: Hasten and bring it quickly.

16 **AND** Acenath hastened and set an empty table before him; and, as she was starting to fetch bread, he said to her: Bring me also a honeycomb. **2** And she stood still and was perplexed and grieved for that she had not a bee's comb in her storehouse. **3** And the angel said to her: Why do you stand still? **4** And she said: My lord, I will send a boy to the outer camp, because the possession of our inheritance is near, and he will come and bring one quickly, and I will set it before you. **5** The angel said to her: Enter your storehouse and you will find a bee's comb lying upon the table; take it up and

bring it here. **6** And she said: YAH, there is no bee's comb in my storehouse. **7** And he said: Go and you will find. And Acenath entered her storehouse and found a honeycomb lying upon the table; and the comb was great and white like snow and full of honey, and that honey was as the dew of heaven, and the odour thereof as the odour of life. **8** Then Acenath wondered and said in herself: Is this comb from the mouth of this man himself?

9 And Acenath took that comb and brought it and set it forth upon the table, and the angel said to her: Why is it that you said: 'There is no honeycomb in my house,' and lo! you have brought it to me? **10** And she said: YAH, I have never put a honeycomb in my house, but as you said so it has been made. Did this come forth from your mouth? For that the odour thereof is as the odour of ointment. **11** And he smiled at the woman's understanding. Then he called her to himself, and, he stretched out his right hand and took hold of her head; and when he shook her head with his right hand, Acenath feared the angel's hand greatly, for sparks proceeded from his hands after the manner of red-hot iron, and accordingly she was all the time gazing with much fear and trembling at the angel's hand. **12** And he smiled and said: "Blessed are you, Acenath, because the ineffable mysteries of ELOHIYM have been revealed to you; **13** and blessed are all who cleave to YAHUAH ELOHIYM in penitence, because they shall eat of this comb, for that this comb is the RUACH CHAYIYM, and this the bees of the paradise of delight have made from the dew of the roses of life that are in the paradise of YAHUAH and every flower, and the angels eat of it and all the elect of

YAHUAH and all the sons of EL ELYON, and whoever shall eat of it shall not die forever. **14** Then the angel stretched out his right hand and took a small piece from the comb and ate, and with his own hand placed what was left in Acenath's mouth and said to her: Eat, and she ate.

15 And the angel said to her: Lo! Now you have eaten the bread of life and have drank of the cup of immortality; and been anointed with the unction of incorruption; **16** Lo! Now today your flesh produces flowers of life from the fountain of EL ELYON, and your bones shall be made fat like the cedars of the paradise of delight of YAHUAH and powers which do not weary shall maintain you; **17** Accordingly your youth shall not see old age, nor shall your beauty fail forever, but you shall be as a walled mother-city of all.

18 And the angel incited the comb, and many bees arose from the cells of that comb, and the cells were numberless, tens of thousands of tens of thousands and thousands of thousands. **19** And the bees also were white like snow, and their wings as purple and crimson stuff and as scarlet; and they had also sharp stings and injured no man. **20** Then all those bees encircled Acenath from feet to head, and other great bees like their queens arose from the cells, and they circled round upon her face and upon her lips, and made a comb upon her mouth and upon her lips like the comb that lay before the angel; and all those bees ate from the comb that was upon Acenath's mouth. **21** And the angel said to the bees: Go now to your place. Then all the bees rose and flew and departed to heaven; but as many as wished to injure Acenath all fell upon the earth and died. **22** And thereupon the

angel stretched his staff over the dead bees and said to them: Rise and depart also into your place. **23** Then all the dead bees rose and departed into the court that adjoined Acenath's house and took up their lodging upon the fruit-bearing trees.

17 **AND** the angel said to Acenath: Have you seen this thing? And she said: Yea, my Rabbi, I have seen all these things. The angel said to her: So, shall all my words be as I have spoken to you today. **2** Then the angel of YAHUAH stretched forth his right hand and touched the side of the comb, and straightway fire came up from the table and devoured the comb, but the table was not injured a whit. **3** And, when much fragrance had come forth from the burning of the comb and filled the chamber, Acenath said to the angel: YAHUAH, I have seven virgins who were brought up with me from my youth and were born on one night with me, who wait upon me, and I love them all as my sisters. I will call them and you shall bless them too, even as you blessed me. **4** And the angel said to her: Call them. **5** Then Acenath called the seven virgins and set them before the angel, and the angel said to them: YAHUAH ELOHIYM EL SHADDAI shall bless you, and you shall be as pillars of refuge of seven cities, and all the elect of that city who dwell together shall rest upon you forever.

6 And after these things the angel said to Acenath: Take away this table. **7** And, when Acenath turned to remove the table, straightway he departed from her eyes, and Acenath saw as it were a chariot with four horses that were going eastward to heaven, and

the chariot was as a flame of fire, and the horses as lightning, and the angel was standing above that chariot. **8** Then Acenath said: Silly and foolish am I, the lowly one, for I have spoken as though a man came into my chamber from heaven; I did not know that YAH had come into it; and lo! now he goes back to heaven to his place. **9** And she said in herself: Be gracious, YAH, to your bondmaid, and spare your handmaid, because, for my part, I have in ignorance spoken rash things before you.

18 **AND**, while Acenath was yet speaking these words to herself, lo! a young man, one of the servants of Yoceph, said: "Yoceph, the mighty man of ELOHIYM, comes to you today. **2** And straightway Acenath called the overseer of her house and said to him: Hasten and prepare my house and make a good dinner ready, for Yoceph, the mighty man of ELOHIYM, comes to us today. **3** And the overseer of the house, when he saw her (for her face had shrunk from the seven days' affliction and weeping and abstinence) sorrowed and wept; and he took hold of her right hand and kissed it tenderly and said: What troubles you, my lady, that your face is thus shrunken? **4** And she said: I have had great pain about my head, and sleep departed from my eyes. **5** Then the overseer of the house went away and prepared the house and the dinner.

6 And Acenath remembered the angel's words and his injunctions, and hastened and entered her second chamber, where the chests of her adorning were, and opened her great coffer and brought out her first robe like lightning to behold and put it on; **7** and she girded herself also with a girdle

bright and royal that was of gold and precious stones, and on her hands she put golden bracelets, and upon her feet golden buskins, and a precious ornament about her neck, **8** and a golden wreath she put about her head; and on the wreath as upon its front was a great sapphire stone, and round the great stone, were many precious stones, and with a mantle she veiled her head. **9** And, when Acenath remembered the words of the overseer of her house, for he had said to her that her face had shrunk, she sorrowed exceedingly, and groaned and said: Woe is me, the lowly one, since my face is shrunken. **10** Yoceph will see me thus and I shall be set as nothing by him. **11** And she said to her handmaid: Bring me pure water from the fountain. **12** And, when she had brought it, she poured it out into the basin, and, bending down to wash her face, she saw her own face shining like the sun, and her eyes as the morning star when it rises, and her cheeks as a star of heaven, and her lips as red roses, the hairs of her head were as the vine that blooms among his fruits in the paradise of YAHUAH, and her neck as an all-variegated cypress. **13** And Acenath, when she saw these things, marveled in herself at the sight and rejoiced with exceeding great joy and did not wash her face, for she said to herself: Lest I wash off this great and comely beauty.

14 The overseer of her house then came back to tell her: All things are done that you commanded; **15** and, when he beheld her, he feared greatly and was seized with trembling for a long time, and he fell at her feet and began to say: What is this, my mistress? What is this beauty that surrounds you that is great and marvelous? **16** Has YAHUAH

ELOHIYM of heaven chosen you as bride for his son Yoceph?

19 **AND**, while they were yet speaking these things, a boy came saying to Acenath: Lo! Yoceph stands before the doors of our court. **2** Then Acenath hastened and went down the stairs from her loft, with the seven virgins to meet Yoceph and stood in the porch of her house. **3** And, Yoceph, having come into the court, the gates were shut and all strangers remained outside. **4** And Acenath came out from the porch to meet Yoceph, and when he saw her he marveled at her beauty, and said to her: Who are you, girl? Quickly tell me. **5** And she said to him: I, lord, am your handmaid Acenath; all the idols I have cast away from me and they perished. **6** And a man came to me today from heaven and has given me bread of life and I ate, and I drank a blessed cup, and he said to me: I have given you for a bride to Yoceph, and he himself shall be your bridegroom forever; **7** and your name shall not be called Acenath, but it shall be called City of Refuge, and YAHUAH ELOHIYM shall reign over many nations, and through you shall they seek refuge with ELOHIYM EL SHADDAI. **8** And the man said: I will go also to Yoceph that I may speak into his ears these words concerning you. **9** And now you know, master, if that man has come to you and if he has spoken to you concerning me.

10 Then Yoceph said to Acenath: Blessed are you, woman, of ELOHIYM EL SHADDAI, and blessed is your name forever, for that YAHUAH ELOHIYM has laid the foundations of your walls, and the sons of the living YAH shall dwell in your city of refuge, and YAHUAH ELOHIYM shall reign over them

forever. **11** For that man came from heaven to me today and said these words to me concerning you. **12** And now come here to me, you virgin and pure, and why do stand far off? **13** Then Yoceph stretched out his hands and embraced Acenath, and Acenath Yoceph, and they kissed one another for a long time, and both lived again in their ruach. **14** And Yoceph kissed Acenath and gave her the RUACH CHAYIYM, then the second time he gave her the RUACH CHOKMAH, and the third time he kissed her tenderly and gave her the RUACH EMETH.

20 **AND**, when they had clasped one another round for a long time and intertwined the chains of their hands, Acenath said to Yoceph: "Come here, master, and enter our house, for that on my part I have prepared our house and a great dinner. **2** And she took hold of his right hand and led him into her house and seated him on the chair of Potiy Phera her father; and she brought water to wash his feet. **3** And Yoceph said: Let one of the virgins come and wash my feet. **4** And Acenath said to him: No, master, for that henceforth you are my master and I am your handmaid. And why do you seek this, that another virgin should wash your feet? For your feet are my feet, and your hands, my hands, and your soul my soul, and another shall not wash your feet. And she constrained him and washed his feet. **5** Then Yoceph took hold of her right hand and kissed her tenderly and Acenath kissed his head tenderly, and thereupon he seated her at his right hand.

6 Her father and mother and all her kindred then came from the possession of their inheritance, and they saw her sitting with Yoceph and clad in a

wedding garment. And they marveled at her beauty and rejoiced and glorified YAHUAH who quickens the dead. **7** And after these things they ate and drank; and, all having made cheer, Potiy Phera said to Yoceph: Tomorrow I will call all the princes and satraps of all the land of Mitsrayim, and will make a wedding for you, and you shall take my daughter Acenath to be your woman. **8** But Yoceph said: I go tomorrow to Phar`oh the king, for he himself is my father and appointed me ruler over all this land, and I will speak to him concerning Acenath, and he will give her to me to be my woman. **9** And Potiy Phera said to him: "Go in peace."

21 **AND** Yoceph stayed that day with Potiy Phera, and he did not go in to Acenath, for that he was accustomed to say: "It is not meet for a man who worships YAHUAH to sleep with his woman before his marriage. **2** And Yoceph rose early and departed to Phar`oh and said to him: "Give me Acenath, daughter of Potiy Phera, priest of Heliopolis, to be my woman." **3** And Phar`oh rejoiced with great joy, and he said to Yoceph: "Lo! Has this one not been betrothed to you to be your woman from eternity? Accordingly let her be your woman henceforth and to time eternal. **4** Then Phar`oh sent and called Potiy Phera, and Potiy Phera brought Acenath and set her before Phar`oh; **5** and Phar`oh when he saw her marveled at her beauty and said: YAHUAH ELOHIYM of Yoceph shall bless you, child, and this your beauty shall remain to eternity, for that YAHUAH ELOHIYM of Yoceph chose you as bride for him: **6** for Yoceph is as the son of EL ELYON, and

you shall be called his bride henceforth and forever.

7 And after these things Phar`oh took Yoceph and Acenath and set golden wreaths upon their heads, which were in his house from of old and from ancient times, and Phar`oh set Acenath at Yoceph's right hand. **8** And Phar`oh put his hands upon their heads and said: YAHUAH ELOHIYM ELYON shall bless you and shall multiply and magnify and glorify you to time eternal. **9** Then Phar`oh turned them round to face one another and brought them mouth to mouth, and they kissed one another.

10 And Phar`oh made a wedding for Yoceph and a great dinner and much drinking for seven days, and he called together all the rulers of Mitsrayim and all the kings of the nations, having made proclamation in the land of Mitsrayim, saying: Every man who shall do work during the seven days of the wedding of Yoceph and Acenath shall surely die. **11** And, while the wedding was going on, and when the dinner was ended, Yoceph went in to Acenath, and Acenath conceived by Yoceph and bore Menashsheh and Ephrayim his brother in Yoceph's house.

22 **AND**, when the seven years of plenty had passed, the seven years of famine began to come. **2** And, when Ya`aqov heard about Yoceph his son, he came into Mitsrayim with all his kindred in the second year of the famine, in the second month, on the twenty-first day of the month, and settled in Goshen. **3** And Acenath said to Yoceph: I will go and see your father, for that your father Yashar`el is as my father and my ELOHIYM. **4** And Yoceph said to her: You shall go with me and see my father. **5** And Yoceph and

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Acenath came to Ya`aqov in the land of Goshen, and Yoceph's brethren met them and made obeisance to them upon their faces on the earth.

6 Then both went in to Ya`aqov; and Ya`aqov was sitting upon his bed, and he himself was an old man in a lusty old age. **7** And, when Acenath saw him, she marveled at his beauty, for that Ya`aqov was beautiful to behold exceedingly and his old age as the youth of a comely man, and all his head was white like snow, and the hairs of his head were all close and thick exceedingly, **8** and his beard white reaching to his breast, his eyes cheerful and glistening, his sinews and his shoulders and his arms as of an angel, his thighs and his calves and his feet as of a giant. **9** Then Acenath, when she saw him thus, marveled and fell down and made obeisance on her face upon the earth. **10** And Ya`aqov said to Yoceph: Is this my daughter-in-law, your woman? Blessed shall she be of ELOHIYM EL SHADDAI. **11** Then Ya`aqov called Acenath to himself and blessed her and kissed her tenderly; and Acenath stretched out her hands and took hold of Ya`aqov's neck and hung on to his neck and kissed him tenderly.

12 And after these things they ate and drank. And thereupon both Yoceph and Acenath went to their house; **13** and Shim`on and Leviy, the sons of Le'ah, alone conducted them forth, but the sons of Bilhah and Zilpah, the handmaids of Le'ah and Rachel, did not join in conducting them forth, for they envied and detested them. **14** And Leviy was at Acenath's right and Shim`on at her left. And Acenath took hold of Leviy's hand, for that she loved him exceedingly above all Yoceph's brethren and as a prophet and a worshipper of ELOHIYM

and one who feared YAHUAH. **15** For he was an understanding man and a prophet of EL ELYON, and he himself saw letters written with the finger of YAHUAH, and he knew the hidden things of ELOHIYM that were revealed to him, and revealed them to Acenath in secret; for Leviy, himself also loved Acenath much and saw the place of her rest in the highest.

23 AND it came to pass as Yoceph and Acenath were passing by, Phar`oh's firstborn son saw them from the wall, and, when he saw Acenath, he became mad at her because of her surpassing beauty. **2** Then Phar`oh's son sent messengers, and called Shim`on and Leviy to him; and, when they came and stood before him, Phar`oh's firstborn son said to them: **3** I for my part know that you are today mighty men above all men upon the earth, and with these right hands of yours the city of the Shikmiym was overthrown, and with your two swords thirty thousand warriors were cut down. **4** And I today will take you to myself as companions and give you much gold and silver and serving men and handmaids and houses and great inheritances, and contend on my side and do me kindness; **5** for I received great spite from your brother Yoceph, since he himself took Acenath to be his woman, and this woman was betrothed to me from of old. **6** And now come with me, and I will fight against Yoceph to slay him with my sword, and I will take Acenath to be my woman, and you shall be to me as brethren and faithful friends. **7** But, if you shall not listen to my words, I will slay you with my sword. **8** And, when he had said these things, he drew out his sword and showed it to them.

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9 And Shim`on was a bold and daring man, and he thought to lay his right hand upon the hilt of his sword and draw it from the sheath thereof and smite Phar`oh's son for that he had spoken hard words to them. **10** Leviy then saw the thought of his heart, because he was a prophet and trode with his foot on Shim`on's right foot and pressed it, causing him to cease from his wrath. **11** And Leviy said quietly to Shim`on: Why are you angry against this man? We are men who worship ELOHIYM and it is not meet for us to render evil for evil.

12 Then Leviy said to Phar`oh's son openly with mildness of heart: Why do you speak these words? **13** We are men who worship ELOHIYM, and our father is a friend of EL ELYON, and our brother is as a son of ELOHIYM. And how shall we do this wicked thing, to sin in the sight of our ELOHIYM and of our father Yashar`el and in the sight of our brother Yoceph? **14** And now hear my words. It is not meet for a man who worships ELOHIYM to injure any man in any way; and, if any wishes to injure a man who worships ELOHIYM, that man who worships ELOHIYM does not avenge himself upon him, for that there is no sword in his hands. **15** And you beware of speaking any more these words about our brother Yoceph. But, if you continue in your evil counsel, lo! our swords are drawn against you.

16 Then Shim`on and Leviy drew their swords from their sheaths and said: Do you now see these swords? With these two swords YAHUAH punished the despite of the Shikmiym, wherewith they did despite to the sons of Yashar`el through our sister Diy nah, whom Shekem the son of Chamor

defiled. **17** And Phar`oh's son, when he saw the swords drawn, feared exceedingly and trembled over all his body, for that they glittered like a flame of fire, and his eyes became dim, and he fell upon his face on the earth beneath their feet. **18** Then Leviy stretched out his right hand and took hold of him, saying: Stand up and do not fear, only beware of speaking anymore any evil word concerning our brother Yoceph. And so, both Shim`on and Leviy went out from before his face.

24 PHAR`OH'S son then continued to be full of fear and grief for that he feared Yoceph's brethren, and again he was exceedingly mad by reason of Acenath's beauty, and grieved greatly. **2** Then his serving men said in his ear: Lo! the sons of Bilhah and the sons of Zilpah, the handmaids of Le`ah and Rachel, Ya`aqov's women, are at great enmity against Yoceph and Acenath and hate them; these will be to you in all things according to your will. **3** Straightway therefore Phar`oh's son sent messengers and called them, and they came to him at the first hour of the night, and they stood in his presence, and he said to them: I see that you are mighty men. **4** And Dan and Gad, the elder brethren, said to him: Let my master now speak to his serving men what he wishes, that your serving men may hear and we may do according to your will. **5** Then Phar`oh's son rejoiced with exceedingly great joy and said to his serving men: Withdraw now for a short space from me, for I have secret speech with which to hold with these men. And they all withdrew. **6** Then Phar`oh's son lied, and he said to them: "Lo! Now blessing and death are before your faces; take therefore the blessing rather than

the death, because you are mighty men and will not die as women; but be brave and avenge yourselves upon your enemies. For I have heard Yoceph your brother saying to Phar`oh my father: Dan and Gad and Naphtaliy and Asher are not my brethren, but children of my father's handmaids: **7** I wait therefore for my father's death, and will blot them out from the earth and all their issue, lest they should inherit with us, because they are children of handmaids. **8** For these also sold me to the Yishma`eliym, and I will render to them again according to their spite which they wickedly committed against me; only my father shall die. **9** And my father Phar`oh commended him for these things and said to him: You have spoken well, child. Accordingly, take from me mighty men and proceed against them according to what they wrought against you, and I will be a helper to you. **10** And when Dan and Gad heard these things from Phar`oh's son they were greatly troubled, and grieved exceedingly, and they said to him: "We pray you to help us; for henceforth we are your slaves and bondmen and we will die with you. **11** And Phar`oh's son said: I will be a helper to you if you also will listen to my words. **12** And they said to him: Command us what you wish, and we will do according to your will. **13** And Phar`oh's son said to them: I will slay my father Phar`oh this night, for that Phar`oh is as Yoceph's father and said to him that he would help him against you; and you slay Yoceph, and I will take Acenath to myself to be my woman, and you shall be my brethren and fellow heirs of all my possessions. Only do this thing.

14 And Dan and Gad said to him: We are your serving men today and will

do all things that you have commanded us. **15** And we have heard Yoceph saying to Acenath: Go tomorrow to the possession of our inheritance, for that it is the season of the vintage; and he sent six hundred men mighty to war with her and fifty forerunners. **16** Now therefore hear us and we will speak to our lord. And they spoke to him all their secret words. Then Phar`oh's son gave the four brethren five hundred men each and appointed them their chiefs and leaders. **17** And Dan and Gad said to him: We are your serving men today and will do all the things that you have commanded us, and we will set forth by night and lie in wait in the ravine and hide ourselves in the thicket of the reeds; and do you take with yourself fifty bowmen upon horses and go a long way before us, **18** and Acenath will come and fall into our hands, and we will cut down the men that are with her, and she herself will flee before with her chariot and fall into your hands and you shall do to her as your soul desires; **19** and after these things we will slay Yoceph also while he is grieving for Acenath; likewise also his children will we slay before his eyes.

20 Phar`oh's firstborn son then, when he heard these things, rejoiced exceedingly, and he sent them forth and two thousand fighting men with them. **21** And when they came to the ravine they hid themselves in the thicket of the reeds, and they divided into four companies, and took up their station on the far side of the ravine as in the front part, five hundred men on this side and on that, and on the near side of the ravine likewise the rest remained, and they themselves also took up their station in the thicket of the reeds, five hundred men on this side and on that of the road;

22 and between them was a broad and wide road.

25 THEN Phar`oh's son rose up the same night and came to his father's bed-chamber to slay him with the sword. **2** His father's guards thereupon hindered him from coming in to his father and said to him: What do you command, lord? **3** And Phar`oh's son said to them: I wish to see my father, because I am going to gather the vintage of my new-planted vineyard. **4** And the guards said to him: Your father suffers pain and has lain awake the whole night and now rests, and he said to us that no one was to come in to him, not even if it is my firstborn son. **5** And he on hearing these things went away in wrath and straightway took fifty mounted bowmen in number and went away before them as Dan and Gad had said to him.

6 And the younger brethren Naphtaliy and Asher spoke to their elder brethren Dan and Gad, saying: Why do you again work wickedness against your father Yashar`el and against your brother Yoceph? And ELOHIYM preserves him as the apple of an eye. **7** Lo! Did you not once sell Yoceph? And he is king today of all the land of Mitsrayim and food-giver. **8** Now therefore, if you again wish to work wickedness against him, he will cry unto EL ELYON, and he will send fire from heaven and it will devour you, and the angels of ELOHIYM will fight against you. **9** Then the elder brethren were moved to anger against them and said: And shall we die as women? Far be it. **10** And they went out to meet Yoceph and Acenath.

26 AND Acenath rose in the morning and said to Yoceph: I am going to the

possession of our inheritance as you have said; but my soul fears exceedingly that you are parting from me. **2** And Yoceph said to her: Be of good cheer and be not afraid, but rather go away rejoicing, in dread of no man whatever, for YAHUAH is with you and he himself will preserve you as the apple of an eye from every evil. **3** And I will set forth my giving of food and will give to all the men in the city, and no man shall perish of hunger in the land of Mitsrayim. **4** Then Acenath departed on her way, as did Yoceph for his giving of food.

5 And, when Acenath reached the place of the ravine with the six hundred men, suddenly those who were with Phar`oh's son came forth from their ambush and joined battle with those who were with Acenath, and cut them all down with their swords, and all her forerunners were slain, but Acenath fled with her chariot. **6** Then Leviy, the son of Le`ah, knew all these things by the RUACH as a prophet and told his brethren of Acenath's danger, and straightway each of them took his sword upon his thigh and their shields upon their arms and the spears in their right hands and pursued after Acenath with great speed. **7** And, as Acenath was fleeing before, lo! Phar`oh's son met her and fifty horsemen with him: and Acenath, when she saw him, was seized with very great fear and was trembling, and she called upon the name of YAHUAH ELOHAYU.

27 AND Binyamiyn was sitting with her on the chariot on the right side; and Binyamiyn was a strong boy of about nineteen years, and upon him was ineffable beauty and might as of a lion's whelp, and he was also one who feared

YAHUAH exceedingly. **2** Then Binyamiyn leaped down from the chariot, and took a round stone from the ravine and filled his hand and hurled at Phar`oh's son and smote his left temple, and wounded him with a grievous wound, and he fell from his horse upon the earth half-dead. **3** And thereupon Binyamiyn, having run up on to a rock, said to Acenath's chariot-man: Give me stones from the ravine. And he gave him fifty stones. **4** And Binyamiyn hurled the stones and slew the fifty men who were with Phar`oh's son, all the stones sinking in through their temples. **5** Then the sons of Le`ah, Re`uven and Shim`on, Leviy and Yahudah, Yisshakar and Zevulun, pursued after the men who had laid in wait against Acenath and fell upon them unawares and cut them all down; and the six men slew two thousand and seventy-six men.

6 And the sons of Bilhah and Zilpah fled from their face and said: We have perished at the hands of our brethren, and Phar`oh's son has also died by the hand of Binyamiyn the boy, and all who were with him perished by the hand of the boy Binyamiyn. Accordingly, therefore, come let us slay Acenath and Binyamiyn and flee to the thicket of these reeds. **7** And they came against Acenath, holding their swords drawn covered with blood. **8** And Acenath when she saw them feared greatly and said: YAHUAH ELOHIYM, who quickened me and delivered me from the idols and the corruption of death, even as you said to me that my soul shall live forever, deliver me now also from these wicked men. **9** And YAHUAH ELOHIYM heard Acenath's voice, and straightway the swords of the adversaries fell from their hands upon the earth and were turned into ashes.

28 **AND** the sons of Bilhah and Zilpah, when they saw this great thing that had been wrought, feared and said: YAHUAH fights against us on Acenath's behalf. **2** Then they fell upon their faces on the earth and made obeisance to Acenath and said: Have mercy on us your bondmen, for that you are our mistress and queen. We wickedly committed evil deeds against you and against our brother Yoceph, but YAHUAH requited us according to our works. **3** Therefore we your bondmen pray, have mercy on us and deliver us from the hands of our brethren, for that they will make themselves avengers of the spite done to you and their swords are against us. Accordingly, be gracious to your bondmen, mistress, before them. **4** And Acenath said to them: Be of good cheer and do not be afraid of your brethren, for that they themselves are men who worship ELOHIYM and fear YAHUAH; but go into the thicket of these reeds until I shall appease them on your behalf and stay their wrath on account of the great crimes which you on your part have dared to commit against them. **5** But YAHUAH shall see and judge between me and you. **6** Then Dan and Gad fled into the thicket of the reeds; and Le`ah's sons, came running like stags against them. **7** And Acenath stepped down from the chariot that was her covert and gave them her right hand with tears, and they themselves fell down and made obeisance to her on the earth and wept with a loud voice; and they continued asking for their brethren the sons of the handmaids to put them to death. **8** And Acenath said to them: I pray, spare your brethren, and do not render to them evil for evil. For YAHUAH

saved me from them and shattered their daggers and swords from their hands, and lo! they have melted and were burned to ashes upon the earth like wax from before fire, and this is sufficient for us that YAHUAH fights for us against them. **9** Accordingly, spare your brethren, for that they are your brethren and the blood of your father Yashar'el. **10** And Shim'on said to her: Why does our mistress speak good words on behalf of her enemies? **11** No, but rather, we will cut them down limb from limb with our swords, for that they devised evil things concerning our brother Yoceph and our father Yashar'el and against you today.

12 Then Acenath stretched out her right hand and touched Shim'on's beard and kissed him tenderly and said: In no way, brother, render evil for evil to your neighbor, for YAHUAH will avenge this spite. **13** They themselves, you know, are your brethren and the offspring of your father Yashar'el, and they fled from afar from your face. Accordingly, grant them pardon. **14** Then Leviy came up to her and kissed her right hand tenderly, for that he knew that she was fain to save the men from their brethren's anger that they should not slay them. **15** And they themselves were near at hand in the thicket of the reed-bed: and Leviy his brother knowing this did not declare it to his brethren, for he feared lest in their anger they would cut down their brethren.

29 AND Phar'oh's son rose from the earth and sat up and spat blood from his mouth; for the blood was running down from his temple into his mouth. **2** And Binyamiyn ran up to him and took his

sword and drew it from Phar'oh's son's sheath (for Binyamiyn was not wearing a sword upon his thigh) and wished to smite Phar'oh's son upon the breast. **3** Then Leviy ran up to him and took hold of his hand and said: In no wise, brother, do this thing, for that we are men who worship ELOHIYM, and it is not right for a man who worships ELOHIYM to render evil for evil, nor to trample upon one who has fallen, nor utterly to crush his enemy even to death. **4** And now put back the sword into his place, and come and help me, and let us heal him of this wound; and, if he lives, he will be our friend and his father Phar'oh will be our father.

5 Then Leviy raised Phar'oh's son from the earth and washed away the blood from his face and tied a bandage over his wound and set him upon his horse and led him to his father Phar'oh, relating to him all the things that had happened and befallen. **6** And Phar'oh arose from his throne and made obeisance to Leviy upon the earth and blessed him. **7** Then, when a third day had passed, Phar'oh's son died from the stone where he had been wounded by Binyamiyn. **8** And Phar'oh mourned for his firstborn son exceedingly, and from the grief Phar'oh fell sick and died at a hundred and nine years of age, and he left his diadem to Yoceph. **9** And Yoceph reigned alone in Mitsrayim for forty-eight years; and after these things Yoceph gave back the diadem to Phar'oh's younger child, who was at the breast when the old man Phar'oh died. **10** And Yoceph was thereafter as a father to Phar'oh's younger child in Mitsrayim until his death, glorifying and praising ELOHIYM.