

## Joseph Remembers to Forget

### Parashat Miketz

- Jacob took to note of the relationship between Joseph and his brothers (37:11- “So his brothers were jealous of him, and his father kept the matter in mind”).

*Kept that matter in mind*

**Rashi-** he was waiting and looking forward in expectation of when it (fulfillment) would come.

- The chief cupbearer did not speak up or remember Joseph once he was removed from prison (40:23- “Yet the chief cupbearer did not think of Joseph; he forgot him”).

*did not think of Joseph; he forgot him*

**Bechor Shor-** not out of malice but because he forgot.

**Rashi-** did not remember that day or afterwards

**Ibn Ezra-** not in speech or mentally did he remember him.

- Chief cupbearer, now, remembers Joseph after Pharaoh awoke and is agitated from his dreams. 41:9-12, 13- “The chief cupbearer then spoke up and said to Pharaoh, ‘I must make mention today of my offenses’...A Hebrew youth was there with us, a servant of the chief steward; and when we told him our dreams, he interpreted them for us, telling each of the meaning of his dream. 13. And as he interpreted for us, so it came to pass”.

*A Hebrew lad, a servant*

**Rashi-** he mentions him with contempt. Unfit for high position, who does not understand our language.

- The opening of Exodus 1:8 “A new king arose over Egypt who knew not Joseph”.

*Who knew not*

**Rashi-** he acted as if he did not know about him.

- 42:8, 9: “Joseph recognized his brothers but they did not recognize him. Then Joseph remembered the dream which he had dreamed of them and said to them, ‘You are spies! To see the nakedness of the land you have come’”.

*Joseph recognized his brothers*

**Rashi-** now he was much older.

His brothers did not recognize him when they encounter him.

*His brothers did not recognize*

**Rashi-** because now he was bearded.

“Pharaoh said to Joseph, ‘I am Pharaoh; yet without you, no one shall lift up hand or foot in all the land of Egypt.’<sup>45</sup> Pharaoh then gave Joseph the name Zaphenath-paneah; and he gave him for a wife Asenath daughter of Poti-phaera, priest of On. Thus Joseph emerged in charge of the land of Egypt.” 41:44,45

“Joseph named his first-born Menashe, meaning, ‘God has made me forget completely my hardship and my parental home.’”41:51