CONCERNING THE COMING OF JACOB

WITH ALL HIS HOUSEHOLD

AND HIS INHABITING GOSHEN.

And Jacob heard about Joseph his son, and he came into Egypt with all his household, in the second year of the dearth on the 21st day of the month of Nisan, and he settled himself in the land of Goshen.

And Assaneth said unto Joseph: "I will go and see thy father, for Jacob thy father is like my God."

And Joseph said: "Thou shalt go with me and see my father."

And Joseph and Assaneth went into the land of Goshen. And the brethren of Joseph met them, and they bowed themselves with their faces toward the ground before them, and particularly before Assaneth. And they went in unto Jacob as he sat on his bed. And he was grayheaded and very old. And when Assaneth saw him she was struck with great amazement; for Jacob was an old man of a goodly countenance, and in his
old age he looked as handsome as a fine youth. His head was quite white like snow, and the hair of his head curled. short and very stiff, like that of a negro. And his beard was white and graceful, lying on his breast; and his eyes full of tenderness, shining and handsome; and his breast, his shoulders, his arms and the fingers of his hands were strong like those of an angel, and his hips and legs like those of a giant. And Jacob looked like a man who could engage in wrestling with God. And when Assaneth saw him, she was greatly amazed, and she fell upon her face on the ground and reverenced him.

And Jacob said unto Joseph: « Is this my daughter-in-law thy wife? May God the Most High bless her. »

And he called her near him and kissed and blessed her. And Assaneth stretched out her hands and clasped her arms around Jacob's neck like one who, rescued from the battle, returns to his home and casts himself upon his father. And afterwards they ate and drank, and Joseph and Assaneth returned to their home, giving praise to God, who is blessed for ever. And only the sons of Leah, Joseph's brethren, went with them to bring them on the way. But the sons
of Zilpha and Bilhah, the handmaidens of
Leah and Rachel, did not go with them to
bring them on the way, for they envied
them and were their enemies. And Levi
walked at the right of Assaneth, and Joseph
at her left. And Assaneth held Levi by
the hand. And she loved Levi more than
all Joseph's brethren; because Levi was
acquainted with the secret mysteries of the
Most High, and revealed unto Assaneth
everything in mysterious words. And
Levi felt a great affection for Assaneth,
and he saw her resting-place in heaven,
and its walls like adamantine walls, and
its foundations like the foundations of a
rock.

And it came to pass, when Joseph and
Assaneth were going, that the eldest son of
Pharaoh saw them from the walls, and felt
very unhappy, and he grieved on account
of Assaneth's beauty, and said: « This must
not be. »

The son of Pharaoh sent messengers and
called unto him Simeon and Levi; and they
came and presented themselves before him.

And the eldest son of Pharaoh said unto
them: « I acknowledge this day that ye
are more powerful than all the men that
are in the world, and that through these
your two right hands the town of the Shechemites was destroyed, and in two days through these your right hands thirty thousand warriors were slain. And, behold, I will take you as my fellows, and will give you gold, and servants, and handmaidens, and houses, and immense and good possessions; but deal kindly with me and do this thing; for I have been offended and despised by Joseph your brother, because he took Assaneth, who was to be my wife, and was promised to me from the beginning. And now come and fight against Joseph your brother; and I will kill him with my sword and will take Assaneth for my wife. And ye shall become my brethren, and favourites and confidants, only do this for me. But should you hesitate to do this, and should you despise my command, behold my sword is ready for you. »

And saying this, he drew his sword and shewed it unto them.

And when Simeon and Levi heard these things, they were much vexed; for the son of Pharaoh spoke unto them with threats and arrogance. And Simeon was a rash and bold man; he thought to put his hand to the hilt of his sword and to draw it out of its scabbard and kill the son of
Pharaoh, for having spoken unto them roughly. But Levi knew the thought of his heart; for Levi was a prophet, who in the purity of his mind saw secrets, and with his own eyes could read what was written in the heart of a man. He forthwith trod with his foot upon the right foot of Simeon, and signed to him to restrain his anger. And he softly said to Simeon: «Why dost thou put thyself in a passion against this man? We are godly persons: it is unbecoming in us to render unto him evil for evil.»

And Levi spoke boldly unto the son of Pharaoh; and there was no wrath in him, because of the gentleness of his heart. «Why dost thou, our lord, speak unto us in this way? We are godly men, and our father is beloved of God the Most High; and God loves Joseph our brother. Now, how can we do this evil thing, and commit a sin before our God, and before Jacob our father, and before Joseph our brother? And now listen to my words: It is not convenient for a godly man to injure anybody in any way. But if some one should injure a godly man, and that godly man gets into a passion, his hand is sacred if he kills him. And thou, beware of speaking now in
this way with respect to Joseph our brother. But if thou persist in that wicked intention, behold our swords are drawn in our right hands against thee. »

And Simeon and Levi drew their swords out of their scabbards, saying: «Behold, thou seest in our hands these swords; these are the swords through which the Lord took vengeance upon the Shechemites for the outrage through which they offended the sons of Israel on account of Dinah, whom Shechem, the son of Hamor, defiled. »

And the son of Pharaoh saw the two-edged swords, and a strong shivering ran through all his bones; for the swords glittered like a fire-flame; and his eyes were dazzled and he fell down on the ground upon his face, and was overtaken by great fear.

And Levi stretched out his hand and took hold of him, and said: «Arise and be not afraid, but beware of speaking wickedly any more with respect to Joseph our brother. »

And Simeon and Levi went away out of the presence of the son of Pharaoh. And the son of Pharaoh was filled with fear and sorrow, for he feared Simeon and Levi. And he was oppressed and vexed on account of Assaneth's beauty, and an affliction beyond
bounds tormented him. And his servants spoke unto him saying: « Behold, the sons of Bilhah and the sons of Zilpha, the handmaids of Jacob, are enemies unto Joseph and unto Assaneth, and they envy them, and will obey thee and do according to thy will. »

And the son of Pharaoh sent messengers unto them and called them unto him; and at night time they came and presented themselves unto him.

And the son of Pharaoh said unto them: « I have somewhat to say unto you, for ye are mighty men of valour. »

And Dan and Gad, the two brothers, said unto him: « Let our lord speak now, and we thy servants will hear and do according to thy will. »

And the son of Pharaoh was filled with great joy, and said unto his servants: « Let all of you go away from me for a little while, for I have a secret matter with these men. » And they all went away.

And the son of Pharaoh said unto them: « Behold, blessing and death are before thine eyes; choose rather blessing than death, for ye are mighty men, and you do not die like women. Be of good courage and quit yourselves like men, and revenge your
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... your enemies. For I heard Joseph, your brother, say unto Pharaoh my father concerning you, that 'they are children of my mother's handmaids, and they are not my brethren; and I wait for my father's death, that I may crush them and their generation, lest they should inherit with us; for they are children of handmaidens, and they are those who sold me to the Ishmaelites. I will return unto them all the evil they did to me when my father shall die.' And Pharaoh my father commended him, saying: 'What thou sayest is very good; I will give unto thee a thousand warriors, to help thee.'

And when those men heard the words of the son of Pharaoh, they became perplexed and very grieved, and they said unto him: «We beseech thee, lord, to help us.»

And he said: «I will help you, if ye listen unto me.»

And they said: «We are thy servants; command us and we will do according to thy will.»

And the son of Pharaoh said unto them: «I will slay Pharaoh my father to-night, for Pharaoh is the father of Joseph. Now give me your help, and I will go before you, and ye shall slay Joseph. And I will
take Assaneth for my wife, and ye and your brethren shall become heirs with me, if ye do this thing. »

And Dan and Gad said unto him: «We are thy servants this day, and we will do what thou dost command us. And we have heard Joseph to-day say to Assaneth: ‘Go thou to-morrow to our country possession, for it is vintage time.’ And he gave her six hundred valiant warriors, and fifty fore-runners. And now listen unto us and let us speak with thee. »

And they spake with him secretly.

And the son of Pharaoh gave to each of the four brothers seven thousand men, and appointed them chiefs and leaders. And Dan and Gad said unto him: « We will go to-night and will watch by the way, and will conceal ourselves among the thickness of the canes. And thou, take with thee fifty archers with their horses, and go on afar, and Assaneth will come and fall into our hands; and we will destroy the soldiers that are with her, and she will flee away in her carriage and fall into thy hands, and thou wilt do with her according to the wish of thy heart. And thereafter we will slay Joseph’s children before his eyes, and himself while he is mourning for Assaneth. »
And the son of Pharaoh rejoiced on hearing their words, and he sent two thousand warriors to go with them. And they came to the torrent and hid themselves among the thickness of the canes. And they encamped on each side of the torrent, and between them there was a wide and spacious road.

And the son of Pharaoh arose on that night and went into his father's house to slay his father with a sword. And his father's guards hindered him from entering in to his father, and said unto him: "What dost thou desire, our lord?"

And the son of Pharaoh said unto them: "I want to see my father, as I am going for the vintage of the newly planted vineyard."

And the guards said unto him: "Thy father suffered with headache, and has not slept the whole night, and now that the pain has somewhat lessened, thy father said: 'Let no one come near to me.'"

And the son of Pharaoh went and took his soldiers, and laid an ambuscade. And behold, Assaneth came in a chariot, and soldiers went before it and behind it. And the enemies, Dan and Gad and the son of Pharaoh, leaping from their hiding-place attacked them. And Assaneth saw and called upon God the Most High. And, be-
hold, the man of God that had come to Assaneth, appeared, and the Lord took her under his protection. And the swords of the enemies were broken, and all the weapons melted as wax before the fire. And the son of Pharaoh fell down on the ground before Assaneth, and became like one dead when he heard that the sons of Jacob were coming on in anger.

And Dan and Gad, seeing that the Lord was fighting, became afraid and said: « It is the Lord that fights against us. » And they fell down before Assaneth, saying: « Thou art our lady and our queen, and we have committed iniquity before thee, and the Lord has rewarded us according to our deeds. And we thy servants entreat thee, be merciful unto us and save us from the hands of our brethren. For they have come unto us to take vengeance upon their enemies, and their swords are before our eyes. »

And Assaneth said: « Be of good comfort, and fear not your brethren; for they are people who fear the Lord, they are godly and respect every man. Go ye into the thick of those canes until I appease their anger; for ye have been very audacious against them. Be of good courage and fear ye
not; let the Lord be the judge between me and you. »

And Dan and Gad and their brethren fled into the grove of canes. And behold, the sons of Leah came running like a herd of deer. And Assaneth stepped down from her covered chariot, and received them with tears. And they fell down on the ground and reverenced her, and wept with a loud voice, and asked for their brethren. And Assaneth said: « Spare your brethren, and do not render them evil for evil; for the Lord protected me against them, and their swords were broken to pieces, and were melted on the ground like wax before the fire. And this is enough, for it is the Lord that has fought for us; and spare ye them, for they are your brethren, and the blood of Israel, your father. »

And Simeon said unto her: « Why doth our lady speak good words for our enemies? Not so; let us destroy them with our swords. For this is the third time they have plotted against thee, and against Israel our father, and against Joseph our brother; thou art our lady and our queen. »

And Assaneth stretched out her hand, and took hold of his beard, and embraced him, saying: « Not so, my brother, do not
render evil for evil; for that will be a sin against the Lord. They are your brethren, and sons of your father, and they fled far away from your presence."

And Levi drew near and kissed her hands; and he understood that she intended to save their brethren. And they were in the thicket of the reeds; and their brethren knew that she did not discover them for fear that in their anger they should slay them.

And the son of Pharaoh arose from the ground and sat up; and the blood flowed out of his ears and out of his mouth. And Benjamin ran unto him and took his sword and drew it, and would have plunged it into the breast of the son of Pharaoh to kill him, but Levi running unto him, took hold of his hand, saying: "My brother, do not this thing; for we are godly men, and it is not befitting for a godly man to render evil for evil: and it is not allowed to any one to trample on, or to harass to death an enemy who falls into his hands. Now put thy sword back into its place, and come and help me, and let us cure his wounds, that he may live and be henceforth our friend; for Pharaoh is as our father."

And Levi raised up the son of Pharaoh,
and wiped the blood from his face, and wrapped his face in a handkerchief. Then he placed him on his horse, and carried him unto Pharaoh his father, to whom he told all these things. And Pharaoh arose from his throne and bowed down before Levi.

And on the third day the son of Pharaoh died, being stricken by a punishment from God.