ARMENIAN APOCRYPHA

RELATING TO THE PATRIARCHS AND PROPHETS

Edited with Introductions, Translations

and Commentary

by

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III. THE STORY OF JOSEPH

The story is carried from Joseph’s descent into Egypt up to Moses’ flight to Midian. The following episodes are included: Joseph Sold into Egypt (1-3), Joseph in his Master’s House (4), Joseph in Prison (5), Pharaoh’s Dream and Joseph’s Promotion (6), Joseph and his Brothers (7), Joseph (8), the Deaths of Jacob and his Sons (9), the Birth and Childhood of Moses, his Flight to Midian (10).

1 Gen. xxxvii : 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13-14,

Joseph took the bread to bring it to his brothers. He reached the field.

2 Gen. xxxvii : 18a, 19,

Reuben, the eldest brother, said, ‘Come, let us kill (him), we shall see what his dream will do!’

The other brothers said, ‘Let not his blood be spilt, but let us cast him into a water cistern!’

They did what the other brothers said. They cast (him) into the cistern.

3 Gen. xxxvii : 25 + 28 1, 27a,

And they will bring (him) ℓ to their land. They gave (him) and sold (him) and took silver. And he

3 Suppl ℓ to ℓ-—- joyful A, ℓ ∼- joyful ℓ joyful
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Or was Pharaoh’s chief eunuch. They took (him) and sailed to Egypt.


A120r 4 Gen. xxxix: 2a, 4b, 3b, 6b, 7, 8a, 9, 11 l, 9, 12, 16a, 17, 18, 19, 20 l.
A120v 5 Gen. xl: 1a, 2, 3, 4, 5 l, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14,
\h [w]u[j]u[g]b:
B 4l j b u b[b]p w i[n]l p b l
\h j u[n]b g w i j u[n]t u g w i j:
(xl: 34) b l [w]j p j u[n]b g w i j u[n]t u g w i j:

And thus it was, and they brought (him) forth from prison.

And after three days, and Joseph’s word was carried out. (xl: 34) And the man forgot Joseph.

B10r 6 Gen. xli: 1 l, 8, 9 l, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23 l,
A121r A121v
A120v B10v 24, 25 l, 26, 27, 33, 35, 36, 37 l, 39, 40, 42, 45, 46d, 48 l, 49b, 50a,
A122r B11r
A122v 51a, 52a, 53, 54, 55 l, 56.

chief eunuch brought (him) to Egypt’. The text of A appears to be confused at this point. The tradition of Joseph’s transport to Egypt by sea is unusual.

6 According to this text for Gen. xli: 42 Joseph is clothed in Pharaoh’s cloak. In
Part Two: Biblical Paraphrases

7 Gen. xlii: 1, 2,

A ωηή νεμων βι ωρνωφη νεην

They took beast and silver, value of bread.

A123r Gen. xlii: 3, 6b, 7, 9 11, 10a, 11, 13, 14, 15, 19–20,
B11v

A123v Gen. xliii: 15, 16 | 17, 26, 30 | 31, 32,
B12r

A124r Gen. xlv: 1, 2, 3 | 4, 5, 7a, 9, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17 |,
B12v

A124v Gen. xlv: 3b, 4 | 5, 6, 9, 11,

qνωψήη θηηνήνη νη ινηηνη

The brothers went to Jacob their father

Gen. xlv: 14,

Gen. R. xc: 3, ed. Theodor and Albeck, III, p. 1102, it is emphasized that Joseph received golden ornaments and garments in place of the garment he removed in order to avoid sin. For v. 45 this text makes Asenath into Pharaoh’s daughter.

7 According to this text for Gen. xlv: 9 the person with whom Joseph’s cup would be found would become a slave; contrast the biblical text ad loc.

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And Jacob came to the land of the Egyptians. And Joseph went forth before him and bowed down to his father, and glorified him.

And after this the Egyptians came to Joseph and said, 'Everything of ours is yours, we and our lives. Give us bread.' And Joseph said, 'Take seed and oxen and sow the ground, and there will be bread, food for you and for your children. And give one-fifth of the grain to Pharaoh.' And they said, 'Behold you have saved us.'

8 This material is presented in the form of a summary of Gen. xlvii: 15-26.
And Jacob lived there fifteen years and he died. And on their entry into there they were seventy-five souls. And at the time of (his) death he called his twelve sons.

9 The supplement contains material corresponding to Gen. xlvi: 29.
10 The contents of Exod. i: 9-22 are presented in the form of a brief summary. According to B, two sons are born to Moses.