Testament of Patriarch Joseph
(From the Pale with Interpretation)

When Joseph heard this, he wept. His servants and brothers changed. And sighing greatly, Joseph said to them: "You, my brothers, hate me, but the Lord loves me. So you wanted to kill me, and the God of my fathers saved me. You threw me into the pit, but the Cherry took me out. You sold me into slavery, but the Lord God freed me all and gave judgment to the whole of Egypt, and subdued them to me. I fell into slavery, and a strong hand helped me. I was overwhelmed with hunger, and the Lord Himself fed me. I was alone in the pit, but God comforted my father. I was sick, but God visited me. I was in the dungeon, but the Savior made me happy, freed me from the bond. And the Lord delivered me from slander. And deliver me from the evil words of the Egyptian. And there I suffered from a cruel woman, who forced me to sin with her, but the God of my father Israel saved me from that burning flame. And I was thrown into prison, beaten and rebuked. And the Lord showed me mercy before all the guards of the dungeon, because the Lord does not leave those who fear him in truth, whether in prison or in captivity, in grief or in misery. The Lord is not ashamed as a man, nor as an earthly exhausted or withdrawn, but oversees all that and delivers in various troubles by
overseeing. And through ten temptations, the Lord made me strong. Therefore, the Egyptian woman always deceived me, saying: "If you are with me, I will renounce the idol of the Egyptian Penthephry and believe in the laws of your God." And I answered her, "Amemphius, my mistress, God does not want those who fear him in uncleanness, nor does he favor those who commit adultery." And she added her cunning to torment in order to entice me to sin. And I did not succumb to torment if the Lord would deliver me from it. And once he put poison in my food, and the Lord God of my father revealed it to me. Then she came to my house, and I said to her, "What do you think?" Will you take my life without justice, because you sent me food filled with deadly poison? But know this: in the judgment of God, when we glorify, the evil of the unbelievers fails. 'And taking before her I began to eat. I said, "The God of our fathers is with me." And she fell on her face at my feet, and wept. And he promises not to do any harm. And otherwise he was furious in his thoughts. Then he approached me with the desired in mind. And he took me by the hand, and dragged me to his bed. And I took off my dress. I ran away from an Egyptian woman. And she, not getting what she wanted, slanders my master. They beat me and put me in jail. The Egyptian woman was let go to me, and she

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said to me several times: "Agree that my wish may be fulfilled and I will set you free and deliver me from darkness." And I didn't even think of bowing to her. The Lord loves more those who fast with reason under a dark roof, than those who are satiated with fornication in the palaces of kings. Those who live in the mind receive glory.
And the Lord knows what they need and gives them as He gives me gifts. And now, my brothers, do not be afraid. I will feed you, as well as your homes.”

And he spoke comfort to them. So Joseph came to Egypt, as did his brothers. And he began to live in Egypt. And he retained all the power of Egypt. Joseph lived 110 years. And they saw the children of Ephraim unto the third generation, the children of Maher, the son of Manasseh. And Joseph saw a day not so far from him as he would join his grandfathers and father. And he began to say to his neighbors,

"Behold, all my senses that hold my body are faint. And depart the virtue of life from me. And my power over power ceases, and powerlessness is forcing itself in me, and I am no longer in number with those who live on earth. From now on, I will move to the habitation of my fathers. And shortly before my death, I would like to tell you something, as well as the sons of my brothers. Do you hear, then, my children, how much I have suffered from my brothers? And I found myself in their bondage only so as not to shame my brothers. And you love each other, my children. Be long-suffering, not wronging one another. And God will rejoice, brothers. And you want to live in a happy heart, because when my brothers came to live in Egypt, as you know, I returned their silver and did not rebuke them with insults, but even comforted them. Also, after Jacob's death, I loved them more than myself, because I did not leave them to live in grief. What was in my hands I gave them. Their sons were also my sons, and I made my sons their servants. Their soul was also my soul. Their sickness was my sorrow. And all their suffering was my suffering, their light and my light. And my thought
was with them. I did not ascend with contempt for them because of my earthly glory, but I was submissive and humble to them, exalting them above me. If you, my children, want to walk according to the law of the Lord, filling the earth with good things, and the crown of the kingdom will be woven for you, and by the grace of the Most High you will take shelter and in blessing the Creator will illuminate you with sunshine. If someone wants to do evil to you, and you do it according to your strength, help him, and pray for us to God, and he will save you from all evil by force and authority. You know what the Lord has done to me rebuked, and slandered and sold. And I suffered all things with patience, praising my God. And like a mighty people, armed with a sword, he brought me out of slavery and out of temptation, and made me the ruler of Egypt and all available.

Hear this, my children! I'll tell you what a dream I had. And, behold, twelve deer were feeding. Nine of them are scattered all over the country, followed by three. And I saw how a virgin was born to Judas, who had the clothes of a vision. Out of her came the lamb without blemish. And all the beasts rushed at him. And the lambs resisted them. And execute them in humiliation. And the angels and the people and all the earth rejoiced over him. This will happen in due course. And they have been looking forward to it lately. And you, my children, keep the commandments of the Lord. And honor Judah and Levi, for out of them will come the lambs of God by grace, saving all the nations of Israel. And his kingdom is an everlasting kingdom to come, and my kingdom will end with you like a bowl of fruit, not appearing according to the commandment for you."

Hear, then, Jew, what Joseph's dream said! "I saw," he
said, "twelve deer grazing." What are deer? These are the twelve apostles who preach miracles around the world. "And there are nine of them," he said, "racing all over the earth" teaching and baptizing in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. "Also," he said, "behind them are the three," because these three also preached and did not leave.

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and died, as the Scriptures said. As John's brother James would be killed by the sword of Herod the wicked, so also deacon Stephen, called the First Martyr, would be stoned to death by a Jew, who cried out, saying, "Lord, do not count this as a sin, for they do not know what they are doing." He said, "As a virgin was born from Judah," that is, the Mother of God, from the tribe of Judah, Joachim's daughter. And what he said "who wore clothes from the vision" means unsullied and unmistakable, pure and pure. "Out of her came forth a lamb without blemish" is the Son of God, meek, and humble, innocent, blameless, whence he knows no sin. And give birth to him like a lion, he said. It is the word of his great deity, and it signifies him strongly and terribly. "And all the beasts rushed at him," he said. It is that you wretched Jews see the Son of God as a humble figure, and you, like beasts, run wildly towards him, saying: "Take, take, crucify! May his blood be on us and on our children." "And resist them," he said, "the lamb," that is, the Son of God rose from the dead, whom you consider a criminal. "And kill them," he said, "in humiliation," that is, surrender to the service of the nations. To this day, you are trampled on in your own countries. "And they rejoiced over him," he said, "angels and men and all the earth." The Lord our God, the king of the heavens and the earth, has
gathered the heavenly and the earthly into one joy and grace. "This will happen," he said, "in due time." So Jacob was in 3700, and the Son of God was born in 3500. "And they rejoiced in him," he said, "in the last days." That is the beginning and the end. At first, he brought it all out of heaven. The prophets preached about it. And we look forward to it until the last days. "And you, my children," he said, "keep the commandments of the Lord." And honor Judah and Levi, for the lambs of God will come to you from them, "that is, from the tribe of Judah, and according to the act of Levi, receive the eldership. "I will give thanks to all the nations of Israel." Understand, O Jews, that not only Israel but all nations will be saved until salvation is born to Israel. And he was born of

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Virgos and attracted all nations to salvation. "His kingdom is an eternal kingdom." Understand this as follows: is not the kingdom of that lamb of the Virgin preached and will it not change, he said, forever

? And all Israel and Egypt mourned for him, because he suffered as one member with them. Joseph lived 110 years and died.

*The original title is The Word of Joseph's Presentation.*