

MIKETZ ANSWERS

1. Yosef spoke lashon horah on his **ten** righteous brothers, and therefore had to be in prison for ten years.
2. Yosef's faith and trust in Hashem was so great that even the long two years of darkness felt like a short time. When one knows that Hashem does everything for our best, it's much easier to accept and to cope.
3. Paroh dreamed of food and animals; lehavdil the Avot Hakedoshim dreamed of Hashem and his Torah.
4. The king's dreams pertain to the welfare of the whole world.
5. The Egyptians used to worship cows as gods. They figured that whatever cows plow and graze in grows, they must be divine. So Paroh dreamed of what he valued. Paroh kept on having these nightmares for two straight years every night! He was going mad from not understanding their meaning.
6. In the days of Yirmiya, Egypt suffered a famine for 40 years. Because they never did teshuva in the first place the punishment was not cancelled, it was just postponed.
7. Just like the weak and scrawny cows devoured the fat and strong ones, and the thin wheat consumed the thick wheat, so too miraculously the small group of Chashmonaim consisting of weak Torah scholars overcame the mass armies of the powerful Greeks.
8. When Yaakov grieved to his sons "why have you done such bad to me?" Hashem responded "at this very moment I am crowning your son monarch of Egypt and the world, and you are saying why did you do such bad to me!" So we must never be quick to complain, because what seems very bad can actually be disguising a lot of good in Hashem's master plan.
9. Binyomon knew the treachery that his brothers did kidnapping his brother Yosef. But he never gossiped it to their father Yaakov.
10. Just like Haman did not want to see Mordechai promoted in the kingdom of Achashverosh, so too the Sar Hamashkim didn't want to see yosef promoted before Paroh. In the end just like Haman gave Mordechai a haircut before he rose to high stature, so did the Sar Hamashkin give Yosef a haircut before his ascend to royalty.
11. The Sar Hamashkim saw Paroh loosing his mind from his mysterious dreams. Paroh was going to die from agony. He figured that if Paroh died, a new King Paroh might not regard him as a high worker, so he spoke up so not to lose his job. The wicked are only "kind" when they have an ulterior motive.
12. Yosef tested his brothers' sincerity, by asking if they would ransom their missing brother even for an astronomical sum of money. They said "of course, that's what we came to do".
13. Since Yosef always kept his mind pure, Hashem said "his mind should make him famous as a sage!"
14. Paroh tried changing details of his dream in order to test Yosef's credibility. But, Yosef corrected Paroh and stated the real facts. Paroh said "wow, not only can he explain a dream, he knows my dreams!"
15. The letter Heh represents Hashem's Name. It was added to Yosef's name to testify that he was constantly faithful to Hashem.
16. Yosef on the one hand, was so happy to see his brothers that he privately cried tears of joy, and on the other hand he also felt their pain and anxiety, so he cried tears of sympathy.
17. On Rosh Hashana Hashem judges the world. That's why Paroh's conscience really bothered him on the day of the judgement.
18. Yosef merited a long reign of kingship, because he totally feared Hashem and overcame extreme temptation.
19. The angel Gavriel taught Yosef the 70 languages. This was so Paroh should honor him. Because one can't appreciate someone's intellect and wisdom if they can't communicate in a comfortable language.[This could be one of the reasons why Sanhedrin had to know seventy languages.]. Paroh was nervous that Yosef would become more popular than himself, since he knew even Hebrew which Paroh did not know. He made Yosef swear he would not reveal that he knows more languages than Paroh.
20. When Yosef was raised to great authority many people threw things (probably confetti) at him in a parade. Osnat realized he was a Jew and threw her kabbalistic amulet that she received from her grandfather Yaakov Avinu. When Yosef read her royal lineage to Yaakov he chose her to be his wife. We see from here that Hashem prepares one's shiduch when they follow faithfully after Him. (Incidentally the Torah tells us that her foster-father who was once an executioner became a priest! Her good ways must have made him change his immoral ways to be more straight and just.)
21. Nevuchadnetzar called Daniel Beltshazar; Hananya Shadrach; Mishael Meshach and Azarya Aven Nago.
22. "Avrech" is an affectionate title given to one who is young in years, but old in wisdom. We call Kollel members by this name since they devote their days from their youth to understand Hashem's will.
23. When Yosef replied that **only Hashem** can reveal to him the message of the dream, even Paroh admitted that **there is no wisdom, like the one who fears G-d!**
24. It was beneficial for the Jews that there was a famine in the world. Why? Because everyone had to come and give all their money to Yosef in order to receive food. This money was kept in Egypt's treasuries. When Am Yisroel were leaving Mitzraim it was much of this money that was given to them in fulfillment of Hashem's promise "rechush gadol".
25. Yosef knew that the Bnei Yisroel would have to live in the spiritual wasteland known as Mitzraim. He knew that the lowness of the Egyptians would destroy many Jews born there, and many would be embarrassed to do mitzvot. So he ordered the goyim to do the very "mitzvah" that defines a

- Jew, and increases kedusha, so the Jewish future would be holier.
26. Yosef bemoaned that in exile he forgot some of his Torah knowledge. So he named his first son Menashe which means "removed" to inspire himself to back that which he forgot. He also wanted to thank Hashem for making him forget his suffering and loneliness.
 27. Menashe was busy doing errands for Yosef the monarch. Whereas Ephraim stayed out of the lime light and put more focus on learning Torah. Ephraim eventually became a Rosh Yeshiva in Egypt. Hashem therefore said I will call my devoted children after Ephraim!
 28. Menashe caused the Shevatim to tear their clothes in grief when he arrested them. So too his descendants were torn into separate parts. Those in Israel and those outside of Israel.
 29. When you teach others Torah you merit a form of rulership!
 30. During a famine in the world one may not have children unless he never did the mitzvah of pirya virivya. Yosef held like Bet Shamai that with two sons you already fulfilled the mitzvah. Levi held like Bet Hillel that you need a boy and a girl to do the mitzvah. That's why Levi had Yocheved at the time of the famine.
 31. Yosef was quiet when the Shevatim referred to Yaakov Avinu as "our father your servant". Since he did not defend the honor of his father 10 times he lost 10 years of his life. Woe!
 32. The brothers knew they would need to pray to Hashem to be able to find their missing brother. So they wanted ten to go so they could pray in a minyan.
 33. Yosef's brothers did not recognize his voice because he spoke through an interpreter and in a foreign language. Also usually Yosef spoke gently and now he spoke harshly.
 34. Avrohom Avinu; Moshe Rabenu; Maharam M'Rutenberg; Rabbi Akiva; Baal HaTanya and many more tzadikim were imprisoned. Perhaps it was to harden their commitment to Hashem showing they couldn't be swayed from the service of Hashem regardless of their predicament.
 35. Shimon screamed at the approaching guards whom Yosef ordered to arrest him. His shout was so fearsome, that they fell down and their teeth fell out. So Menashe had to give him one powerful blow, and than he was able to subdue him.
 36. Yosef pretended that he was able to see through a magic cup what's going on in the world. Now really aveirah # 249 forbids a Jew to practice sorcery. That fake prop also made it appear that he was a goy, and they wouldn't suspect he was Yosef.
 37. Yosef wanted his brothers to do teshuva. By making them feel regret for his sale, and realizing that sins cause suffering, he would be saving them from greater punishment from Shamayim. Also Yosef's brothers made him swear he wouldn't return home, nor would he reveal himself to their father, nor inform Yaakov he was alive and well. So he had to cause Yaakov to hear it from them, as a relief from the harsh treatment towards his family.
 38. Reuvein meant that his sons would lose their firstborn-inheritance rights. On that Yakov said "fool- you already lost your rights when you disrespected me by Bilah."
 39. Yosef told Menashe to stop them before they were well on their way. Because he knew that once they say Tefillas Hasderech Hashem would spare them attacks on the way, and it would be impossible to arrest them.
 - 40.
 41. Yaakov's sons were extremely handsome and built. He therefore did not want them entering the city through one gate lest it cause jealousy and the evil eye.
 42. Yosef wanted his brothers to have a kapara for three things: Undressing him; throwing him in the pit; and selling him. Also Hashem doesn't let a tsadik feel distress for more than three days in a row.
 43. Reuven really tried to persuade his brothers to be "dan l'kaf zechut" Yosef. He tried to arouse their compassion and brotherhood for Yosef. When he saw they weren't accepting his attempt for shalom, he pleaded with them not to kill him' but rather to just throw him in the pit. Reuven hoped that afterwards he would return to the pit and bring Yosef home.
 44. Yosef would not enjoy wine during the brothers distress. But now that it was coming to an end they made "l'chaim".
 45. Tsofna"t Paneya'h stands for: T'sofeh-Seer; P'odeh-Redeemer; N'avi-Prophet; T'omech-Sponsor; P'oter-Interpreter; A'rum-Clever; N'avon-Understanding; H'ozeh-Envisionary. These were all terms to describe Yosef's supernatural wisdom.
 46. Yosef told his brothers that surely their finding their money back in their sacks was a courtesy G-d did due to their exceptional ancestral merits.
 47. Yosef picked on Shimon since he was the one that pushed him into the pit. The halacha is that if the goyim insisted to take one Jew we don't have the right to pick. Only they can pick, Heaven forbid.
 48. When one sees himself suffer he is supposed to know that it's for his own benefit, but usually it's a message from Hashem to do teshuva.
 49. Yosef went from slavery to kingship.
 50. The Gemara lists many non-kosher foods, that we have kosher foods that taste the same. An example in this weeks' parsha is: Yosef did not marry the attractive Zulika, the wife of the Head Butcher. So Hashem gave him her step-daughter Osnat who was even more beautiful than her mother. Hashem rewards the righteous to have enjoyment from permitted ways instead of having pleasure from forbidden ways!
 51. Yosef's replacing the Shevatim's money in their bags eluded to the future when after the Jews would leave Mitzraim their money would be returned and they would be wealthy.