

Answers

1. Yehuda had a greater quality than Yosef. Yosef was once the most brilliant son of Yaakov, but after many years in Egypt he forgot some of the Torah which he had learned. He was still an incredible Talmid Hacham, but he missed the factor called “Shimush Talmidei Hachamim” (serving the Rabbis). By not being in Yaakov’s presence he did not see how the Gadol Hador lives, so even the Torah that he remembered was not comparable to Yehudah’s Torah which was **not only knowledge, but eye witness**. Hence Yehudah was more qualified to open the Yeshiva, before Klal Yisroel came down to Egypt.
2. Yehuda wanted to destroy 3 of the 12 neighborhoods in Egypt and each of the other 9 brothers to destroy one, in revenge of their **injustice** to Shimon and Benyomin.
3. When Serah the daughter of Asher informed Yaakov that his son Yosef was still alive, she did so with a song and music while Yaakov was praying. It was through this method that the shock was less and did not endanger Yaakov’s health. Since she spared him any danger by giving the information in a song in a pleasant way, as if she was asking a question “Is Yosef still alive in Egypt?...” It was this skill that earned her everlasting life even on this world! Since she **protected the Tsadik’s life** her life was protected forever and she had an incredibly long existence in this world (probably over two thousand years) and only later went in to Gan Eden alive. I don’t know if any person lived longer than her.
4. When Yosef’s brothers realized that Sofnat Paneyah was none other than their own brother Yosef, which they betrayed, their shame and embarrassment was so great that they were speechless, and they passed out. Reb Elazar cried, if in front of a human being shame could become so intense for not behaving respectfully towards each other - what will be when Hashem will reveal Himself in the World to Come? **How great will be the shame and embarrassment for not respecting Him enough? Who will be able to respond?!**
5. ?
6. Goshen was a totally religious city! The ideal place for a Jew to live, is in an environment that is 100% Torah – true. There still exist some **rare communities today that shelter its citizens from negative influence** from the world. Our greatest challenge is to keep out of our homes and our hearts negative influences.
7. There are many reasons why Am Yisroel started off in Egypt and not in their own homeland: One reason is that Egypt was a land ruled by one king. In Israel there were several kings. Bnei Yisroel had to be driven home the message that there is **one King** - not Paroh - but Hashem! Once they were slaves under a king of human flesh and blood this would better prepare them for their career as being slaves toward Hashem the Superior King. Another reason we had to go to Egypt was a punishment for **selling Yosef as a slave to Mitzraim**. It was also good for the Jews to be in a land that hated shepherds - this way there would be **less assimilation**.
8. Yaakov Avinu told Paroh the reason he looked very old was because he had a difficult life: His brother Esav was a bum hunting him to kill him; his wife Rochel was switched for Leah; his father-in-law always tricked him in business; his daughter Dinah was kidnapped; Yosef was probably killed etc. Since he **complained** he was punished. We find so many examples throughout Tanach about great people that complained and lost out. The Jews complained about Eretz Yisroel when the spies implied how dangerous it was. They cried on Tisha B’Av and died in the desert never to reach their destination. One’s trust in Hashem must be so strong, that he doesn’t complain even when he wants things to be better.
9. Lettuce, especially Roman lettuce, at first tastes fine but afterwards has a bitter taste. So to when the Jews went to Egypt at first it seemed pleasant - we were **guests** in the land of Egypt. But afterwards the Egyptians were so mean to the Jews that life became so bitter.
10. Yosef and Binyamin cried over the future destructions of the Batei Hamikdash, because they saw in ruach hakodesh that it would be destroyed due to sinat hinam (needless hatred). Their tears were shed because they realized that Yosef’s whole exile to a land far from his father was due to hatred, and they realized that the hatred was not gone and would resurface again and again and that is something to cry about. [Incidentally in 2001, some arabs went to arson the grave of Yosef Hatzadik in Shechem. Rebitzen Jungreiss wisely commented that this was a message that the rampant fire of sinat hinam was not put out yet!]
11. When Yoav the general of **David Hamelech**’s army was coming to attack the city where she lived to punish a rebel within. It was **690** years later and she was still there to tell them how to accomplish the task the best possible way. Even much later in history we find by **Rav Yochanan** that he was teaching about the miracles of the exodus of Egypt. As he was describing how the walls looked at Keriya Yam Suf a woman from the Ezrat Nashim named Serah bat Asher screamed out “I was there and this is how it looked...” So we see that she had incredible longevity and at some later time went into Gan Eden alive.
12. You can’t compare the great tzadikim -the shevatim to other tzadikim. Yaakov envisioned each son as a Bet Hamikdash. Can someone be consoled over the destruction of a Bet Hamikdash? One was destroyed (- Yosef’s disappearance-) could Yaakov survive a second Hurban Bet Hamikdash? That’s why Yehudah said that if Binyomin is taken from my father it would be too hard for him to handle.
13. There is a Mitzvah to love Hashem no matter what measure He grants you. This mitzvah can be done best when the person’s measure was not to his satisfaction. Also the Shulchan Aruch says a person should be in the habit of saying, “everything - the All Merciful does - for the best”. That statement is best said when it seems like something “**bad**” happens. This is called genuine bitachon (trust in Hashem).
14. Yehuda’s brothers talked him out of an attack saying that it would endanger the whole world who were relying on Egypt’s food banks.
15. Yaakov wanted to channel all the love in his heart- which was so enormous at the time-to the **One who gives love** and that’s Hashem Himself.
16. Yosef asked Yehuda why he talks so much to save Benyomin. He replied that he **swore to protect** him. Yosef asked why didn’t you protect your other brother Yosef?
17. Yehudah showed genuine leadership quality when he suggested that they sell Yosef instead of killing him. And now again when he put his life on the line to fight for Benyamin’s life. A **leader is the one willing to fight** for the welfare of others!
18. Rabbi Hanina’s wife died from shock when her husband appeared suddenly after thirteen long years away. It was too much for her heart. He cried out “Is this the reward of learning Torah?” A miracle happened and she lived again!

19. Yosef was despised by his brothers wrongly. Hashem has **special pity for people that are degraded even when they're good**. Amazingly, Hashem will promote a person like this to great honorable status. Also, Yosef kept the mitzvot, and guarded his thoughts and brit milah, which merits a person to become a ruler!
20. As a proof of Yosef's kedusha Hashem granted him righteous sons. See Bereshit 6:1.
21. Yosef harnessed his chariot to escort his father. He was accompanied by all the mighty officers of Egypt. A decree was issued that whoever doesn't go out to greet his father will die. They all went out in an enormous parade with music and uniforms to welcome Yaakov to Mitzraim.
22. 64,400! Even though Dan had the smallest Shevet at first - bearing only a deaf child - eventually his tribe ranked from the largest! In the end everyone sees Hashem is fair!
23. Yehuda put love in his heart for the ruler Sofnat Paneyah. Because there is a **phenomenon** that if you love someone they will love you back (k'mayim hapanim l'panim!). We see from here, you can change someone's attitude towards you by changing your attitude towards them.
24. Yosef sent out all the Egyptians as he revealed himself to his brothers, to spare them humiliation before the goyim. Yosef told his brothers, that just like I don't have any hate for Binyamin, I have no hate for you. It was Heavens will. Additionally, Yosef moved all the Egyptians in to different neighborhoods so that his family shouldn't have to feel like they were foreigners.
25. **Iyob** the mysterious tzadik was born when the Jews went to Mitzraim, and he died on their way out. The **saga of his life**, Moshe used to encourage the Jews in Mitzraim, that after the righteous suffer, comes much happiness and blessing!
26. When Yaakov saw Yosef he most likely made the blessings: 1) Shehechyanu, 2) Mehaye Hametim, 3) Hatov Hametiv, and 4) Sheholak Mikvodo L'basar V'dam.
27. When Yehuda was about to draw his sword against the antagonizing Sofnat Paneyah, the sword wouldn't come out. (Now this was no accident as Hazal tell us that when *Shaul Hamelech* drew his sword it always met it's mark!). Yehuda said, this ruler must fear G-d and that's why I couldn't harm him.
28. Yehuda burned the wagons that Paroh dispatched to pick up Yakov, since they had avoda zara engraved on them.
29. Yosef is symbolized by the mighty ox (king of the domesticated animals) The calves hinted to this. Also the last mitzva Yaakov discussed with Yosef was that of Eglah Arufa. He wanted to show his father that he still remembered much of the Torah he taught him!
30. Yaakov suspected that gentile women kissed the handsome and stunning Yosef, and therefore did not kiss his beloved son again. It was just a precaution. In reality, Yosef stayed clean and pure.
31. When Yosef finally saw Yaakov he was in his chariot. Since he appeared without immediately rushing to greet his father, this slower reaction caused years of his life to be lost. Honoring parents lengthens lives! Also he shouldn't have been quiet when they referred to Yakov as your servant. Surprisingly, even though Yosef was truly humble in his leadership, since he acted superior to his brothers he died before them.
32. Goshen belonged to **Sarah Emanu**. Paroh wrote it to her as a gift when she was taken from his palace.
33. Yosef told his family not to change their **Hebrew name** even though his Hebrew name had been changed to Sofnat Paneyah.
34. Yosef ordered them to take Egyptian coffee to their father Yakov. He said it has a soothing effect to expel worry and anxiety.
35. Potifar asked Paroh, "How could you raise my slave that I bought for 20 silver coins to royalty?" Yosef responded that you had no right to buy me since I am not from Canaan who were slaves. On the contrary, I am from the royal family of Avraham and Sarah. And to prove it let Paroh take out the **sculpture** that he made of Sarah Emanu, and you will see that I look just like her. So it was!
36. *Real* Talmidei Hachamim need not pay the city security tax because it's **really them whose merits protect everyone**.
37. The Egyptian priests defended Yosef when Potifar wanted to kill him. So Yosef showed **appreciation** by not making them sell away their property.
38. Yosef managed all the land in the world!
39. See answer #8. There were **33 words** in the dialogue between Yakov and Paroh discussing his extremely old appearance. Since Yaakov sounded pessimistic, (even though it was to avoid an Ayin Hara from Paroh) he lost 33 years of his life.
40. Serah Bat Asher eventually went into Gan Eden alive.
41. Egyptians thought that stars formed the shape of a sheep, and figured that maybe that was a god, so they idolized sheep.
42. Ten times there were hungers throughout the entire world. One being during Yosef's reign.
43. They didn't want to bring a fake Binyomin because then if Shimon didn't recognize him they would really be in trouble.
44. Hashem proclaims of one who thinks Torah and establishes a Bet Midrash, "**the great reward that I have in My treasure house will be yours, and in your merit I will save the Jewish people!**"
45. Ten things must a city have before you settle there: A yeshiva to teach the children Torah, a Bet Din to execute justice, a Shochet, Mohel, Sofer, Gabai tzedaka, doctor, bathhouse, restroom, and fresh fruits.
46. A lion and an ox. With neither harming the other.
47. Yehudah passionately defended Binyomin's rights.
48. When Yaakov came to Mizrayim the hunger stopped in his merit.
49. The seventieth one that went to Egypt as Yaakov's family was either Yocheved, Serah, or Hashem Himself who told Yaakov **I will be with you even when you go in to galut**.
50. When Yosef finally relieved his identity he said "do you think your brother is lost? I will call him to appear before you. **Yosef ben Yaakov, Yosef ben Yaakov**". They gazed at all the entrances until they realized it was none other than him. They collapsed in shock.
51. Yosef did not want to show Paroh his stronger brothers lest he draft them into the **army**. He didn't want them endangered nor did he want them away from Yaakov.
52. When Yehudah threatened Sofnat Paneyah to free Benyomin, he said: "Paroh is the king of Egypt and you are the second in command, so too Yaakov is a **king in Caannan** and I am second in command...".
53. Yaakov was frightened to have to leave Israel and go to exile into Egypt. He feared what would become of their religious status. Hashem had to come to Yaakov in a dream to encourage him that He would be with him.

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