

Chapter 41

Two years later Pharaoh had a dream:
he was standing by the river Nile
and saw 7 healthy cows feeding on the riverside.

Then he saw 7 sickly cows which ate the 7 healthy cows.

Pharaoh woke,
then had a second dream when he went back to sleep:
7 rich ears of corn on one stalk,
followed by 7 withered ears which ate the 7 rich ears.

None of Pharaoh's wise men could interpret the dreams.

Then the cup-bearer told Pharaoh
how Joseph could understand dreams.

Pharaoh sent for Joseph
and Joseph told Pharaoh the meaning of his dreams:
the 7 healthy cows and 7 rich ears
meant 7 good years for Egypt;
the 7 sickly cows and 7 withered ears meant 7 years of famine.

Joseph also told Pharaoh what to do:
use a tax to collect one fifth of all grain in the 7 good years;
then during the 7 years of famine
use the collected grain to feed Egypt.

Pharaoh and his ministers
were so impressed by Joseph's wisdom
that Pharaoh made Joseph governor of the whole of Egypt,
second only to Pharaoh himself.

Pharaoh gave Joseph Asenath, a priest's daughter, as his wife.

Joseph was now 30 years old,
having spent more than 10 years in Egypt.