

מעשה אבות סימן לבנים

As it Was with Our Ancestors, So It Is with Their Descendants

and with my apologies to the biblical author.--JHB

Joseph had a dream which he shared with his brothers Gen. 37:5

of a rabbinite proud, strong and effective;
and Joseph said; I am looking for my brothers Gen. 37:13
and sisters who share my dream and when he found them,
they told their dreams to Joseph. Gen. 40:9
and he joined them to his,
And Joseph remembered his dreams. Gen. 42:9
while never forgetting ours
in the darkest night, in the blinding light, a beacon

Then Joseph said to his siblings...I am your brother Joseph...it was
to save life that God sent me. Gen. 45:4

A bit more modestly perhaps, but true nonetheless

...that the Lord was with him and that the lord lent success to
everything he undertook; we took a liking to Joseph. We put him in
charge of our household. Gen. 39:3

back in nineteen hundred and seventy one,

And it was Joseph who was in charge. Gen. 42:6

And let no one forget it!

And we did as Joseph told us. Gen. 44:2

And it usually worked out just fine!
At times there were those who demanded their own way,
those who were unyielding, those whose pain seemed
unbearable, and those who seemed just plain contrary,--

They did not know that Joseph understood...He turned away from them and wept. But he came back to them and spoke to them;
Gen.42;23,24

Joe understood the pain of unfulfilled dreams, the hurt of needless wounds, the aching limits of our humanity and though he wept in private, he always came back; to say what needed to be said; to do what needed to be done:
And he achieved more than we imagined.

Then Joseph gave orders to fill their bags with grain...and give them provisions for the journey; Gen. 42;25

Joe helped nourish us materially, emotionally and spiritually, for the journey we are all embarked on. And we knew that

The Lord was with Joseph and he was a successful man. Gen. 39:2

You bet he is and with his help

... the house of Joseph will guard their boundaries. Jos. 18:5

because in his stewardship Joe guarded the integrity of our boundaries even as he helped us reach out to the world around us. And it is recorded that

...Israel loved Joseph best among all his children Gen 37;3

for all the above reasons and ten thousand more we join all Israel in tribute to our Joseph who dreamt and realized and paved our way to the future.

And he blessed Joseph, saying...The God of your father who helps you, and Shaddai who blesses you with blessings of heaven above...May they rest on the head of Joseph, on the brow of the elect of his brothers. Gen. 48;15,49;25,26

And we say Amen!