

Chinese Traditional

創世紀

導言

《創世紀》這個名字源自這本書的第一句話：“在起初……”。我們可以把這部書分成三個重要部分：

神學作品。它們描述了有關世界的起源、天堂和原罪。這些描述都是故事，它們不是歷史記載，而是神學作品。它們並不必然描述事實，而是表達人類的本源，及他們與天主的關係，以及罪惡的問題。

古老的傳承。這一部分包括加音和亞伯爾的故事，以及洪水滅世和巴貝爾塔的故事。這些都是中東地區古老的傳說，即使在以色列的史前時代，這些故事已經廣為流傳。偉大的以色列史學家發現了它們，並把這些古老的傳說收編在聖經中，作為他們“歷史的起源”，並賦予它們深刻的宗教內涵。

族長的歷史。亞巴郎、依撒各和雅各伯是“以色列子民的祖先”。這些故事也來自古老的傳說。這些故事對我們來說有著深刻的象徵意義，而且聖經作者們更注重這些傳說的宗教意義，其次才是歷史事實。這些傳說以頗具傳奇色彩的“若瑟的故事”作為結尾，成為整篇聖經中最美麗的篇章。

創造天地

1 1 元始之初，天主創造天地時，2 大地一片混沌，無形無樣，深淵之上是一片漆黑，天主的神彌漫在水面之上。

3 天主說：

“要有光！”

光就有了。

4 天主看見光好，就把光與黑暗分開。5 天主稱這光叫晝，稱黑暗叫夜。晚上過去，清晨來臨，這是第一天。

6 天主說：

English

GENESIS

Introduction

Its name derives from the book's first words: "In the beginning...". We can distinguish three important divisions in the book:

Theological writings. They refer to the Creation of the world, Paradise, and the First Sin. These are stories, they are not history but theology. They do not relate events that happened, but are fundamental messages about human beings, their relationship with God, and sin.

Very old traditions. The famous stories about Cain and Abel, the Flood, the Tower of Babel. These are very old traditions, previous even to the history of Israel. The great history compilers of Israel found them, and they included them as a "history of the origins", more legendary than historic, giving them a strong religious meaning.

The history of the Patriarchs. Abraham, Isaac and Jacob are the "fathers of the people". The origin of these stories is also rooted in legend. They have for us a symbolic value and the authors were more interested in their religious messages than in the historical events in themselves. This "history" ends with the marvelous "history of Joseph", one of the most beautiful stories of the whole Bible.

Creation

1 ¹In the beginning, God began to create the heavens and the earth.
²The earth had no form and was void; darkness was over the deep and the Spirit of God hovered over the waters.
³God said:
—Let there be light.
And there was light.
⁴God saw that the light was good and he separated the light from the darkness.
⁵God called the light 'Day' and the darkness 'Night'.
There was evening and there was morning: the first day.
⁶God said:

“在水與水之間要有穹蒼，將水上下分開！”事就這樣成就了。
7 於是天主造了穹蒼，把穹蒼下的水和穹蒼上的水分開。

8 天主稱這穹蒼叫天。

晚上過去，清晨來臨，這是第二天。

9 天主說：

“讓天空下的水聚在一起，好讓大地出現！”

事就這樣成就了。

10 天主稱這地為陸地，稱這聚在一起的水為海。

天主看了，認為很好。

11 天主說：

“讓陸地長出青草，長出結種子的稻麥蔬菜；讓果樹結滿帶核的果實，每種植物在地上各得其所！”

事就這樣成就了。

12 於是，大地長出蔬菜、五穀、果樹，每種蔬菜各有其收穫，每種樹各結其果實。天主看了，覺得很好。

13 晚上過去，清晨來臨，這是第三天。

14 天主說：

“讓蒼穹的亮光把白晝和黑夜分開，而且劃分出季節和年日；

15 讓閃耀在蒼穹的光，照亮大地！”

事就這樣成就了。

16 於是天主造了兩個大亮光，較大的亮光管著白天，較小的亮光管著黑夜，天主又造了群星。17 天主將群星安放在天空，好照耀大地，18 區分晝夜和明暗。

天主看了，覺得很好。

19 晚上過去，清晨來臨，這是第四天。

20 天主說：

“讓水裏滋生各式各樣的動物，任鳥兒飛翔在大地之上，天空之下。”

21 於是天主造了海中的大海獸和動物，這些動物按照它們的種類，在水裏生長。天主又創造了各種有翼的飛鳥。

天主看了，覺得很好。

22 就祝福這一切，說：

“要繁衍生殖，充滿海洋，飛鳥也要在陸地上增多。”

23 晚上過去，清晨來臨，這是第五天。

—Let there be a firm ceiling between the waters and let it separate waters from waters. ⁷So God made the ceiling and separated the waters below it from the waters above it. And so it was.

⁸God called the firm ceiling ‘Sky’.

There was evening and there was morning: the second day.

⁹God said:

—Let the waters below the sky be gathered together in one place and let dry land appear.”

And so it was.

¹⁰God called the dry land ‘Earth’, and the waters gathered together he called ‘Seas’.

God saw that it was good.

¹¹God said:

—Let the earth produce vegetation, seed-bearing plants, fruit trees bearing fruit with seed, each according to its kind, upon the earth.

And so it was.

¹²The earth produced vegetation: plants bearing seed according to their kind and trees producing fruit which has seed, according to their kind.

God saw that it was good.

¹³There was evening and there was morning: the third day.

¹⁴God said:

—Let there be lights in the ceiling of the sky to separate day from night and to serve as signs for the seasons, days and years; ¹⁵and let these lights in the sky shine above the earth.

And so it was.

¹⁶God therefore made two great lights, the greater light to govern the day and the smaller light to govern the night; and God made the stars as well. ¹⁷God placed them in the ceiling of the sky to give light on the earth ¹⁸and to separate the light from the darkness.

God saw that it was good.

¹⁹There was evening and there was morning: the fourth day.

²⁰God said:

—Let the water teem with an abundance of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth under the ceiling of the sky.

²¹God created the great monsters of the sea and all living animals, those that teem in the waters, according to their kind, and every winged bird, according to its kind.

God saw that it was good.

²²God blessed them saying:

—Be fruitful and increase in number, fill the waters of the sea, and let the birds increase on the earth.

²³There was evening and there was morning: the fifth day.

24 天主說：

“讓大地生出活物來，各從其類：牲畜、昆蟲及野獸。”
事就這樣成就了。

25 天主創造了各種野獸、各種昆蟲和各種牲畜，各從其類。
天主看了，覺得很好。

26 天主說：

“讓我們照自己的肖像，按我們的模樣來造人。叫他管理水中的遊魚，空中的飛鳥，還有各種牲畜、野獸和各類昆蟲。”

27 於是天主按自己的肖像造了人，天主造了他們：男人和女人。

28 天主祝福他們說：

“你們要在大地上生育繁衍，並充滿大地，治理大地，管理海中的魚、空中的飛鳥、及陸上行走的動物。”

29 天主說：

“我把地上結種子的五穀蔬菜，和一切結果子的樹都交給你
們，作為你們的食物。30 至於地上的各種野獸，天空的各種飛鳥和
爬行在地上的眾生靈，我要將草賜給他們作食物。”
事就這樣成就了。

31 天主看到他所創造的一切，覺得很好。

黑夜過去，清晨來臨，這是第六天。

2 1 天地和它們之間的萬物就這樣造成了。

2 到第七天，天主已完成了工作，他便在這天休息，停止一切工程。

3 天主祝福這第七天，定為聖日，因為他在這天停止了所有的創造工程。

4 這些就是天主創造天地的過程。

在這兩章中，我們看到了兩個截然不同的創世故事。解釋這種現象的原因，是因為這些描述並非向我們顯示天主如何創造了世界和人類（因為作者也不知道），而是向我們展示天主是宇宙的創造者（統治者和君王），以及人類與他的關係。聖經中有很多描述天主創造智慧和能力的聖詠，大家不妨參照：

1，箴言 8：11，23-32：直觀描述天主的創造工程。

2，訓導篇 43：1-33：這是一首描述大自然的美妙詩篇，是對聖詠第一百四十

24 God said:

—Let the earth produce living animals according to their kind: cattle, creatures that move along the ground, wild animals according to their kind.

So it was.

25 God created the wild animals according to their kind, and everything that creeps along the ground according to its kind.

God saw that it was good.

26 God said:

—Let us make man in our image, to our likeness. Let them rule over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, over the cattle, over the wild animals, and over all creeping things that crawl along the ground.

27 So God created man in his image; in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

28 God blessed them and said to them:

—Be fruitful and increase in number, fill the earth and subdue it, rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the sky, over every living creature that moves on the ground.

29 God said:

—I have given you every seed-bearing plant which is on the face of all the earth, and every tree that bears fruit with seed. It will be for your food. 30 To every wild animal, to every bird of the sky, to everything that creeps along the ground, to everything that has the breath of life, I give every green plant for food.

So it was.

31 God saw all that he had made, and it was very good.

There was evening and there was morning: the sixth day.

2 ¹ That was the way the sky and earth were created and all their vast array.

² By the seventh day the work God had done was completed, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work he had done.

³ And God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on that day he rested from all the work he had done in his creation.

^{4a} These are the successive steps in the creation of the heavens and the earth.

In these two chapters we see two different stories about the creation of the world and of human beings that, evidently, contradict each other. The explanation is that the intention is not to try to explain how things happened (this was unknown to the authors, and even to us), but explain who God is (the Ruler, the Lord) and how humans relate to Him. These are also a beautiful hymn to the wisdom and power of God.

You can also read:

Proverbs 8:11,23-32. Good sense is the first of the creative tasks of God.

Ecclesiasticus 43:1-33. It is a great hymn to nature that is presented as a

八篇的解釋和反省。

3, **約伯傳 38-39**：天主回答約伯在急難中的哭訴與責問。

4, 在聖詠中，作者運用抒情詩的形式，在讚頌的祈禱中頌揚並感謝天主。聖詠詩以色列子民的獨特祈禱。它是人類歸向天主的經驗。它是人在生活中與天主同行的體驗。聖詠可以反復詠唱，因為它既不是作者一個人的情感表達，也並非歷史的經驗。它是人對天主永恆的祈禱。

您還可以參閱：

聖詠 8, 24, 104, 136 和 140 篇，這些都是有關天主創造的記載。

天堂和罪惡

天主創造天地的時候，⁵ 地上還沒有灌木，也沒有長出任何植物，因為雅威天主還沒有把雨降到大地上，也沒有人在土地上耕種。⁶ 但有水從地下湧出，滋潤所有地面。

⁷ 雅威天主用地上的泥土造人，把生命的氣息吹進他的鼻孔，他就成為有靈、有生命的人。

⁸ 雅威天主在東方的伊甸開闢了一個園子，將造好的人安置在那裏。

⁹ 雅威天主使地上長出各種好看又好吃的果樹，又在園中央栽種生命樹和能使人分辨善惡的樹。

¹⁰ 有一條河從伊甸流出，灌溉那園子。又從那裏分成四條主要的支流。¹¹ 第一條支流叫丕雄，環繞產金的哈威拉，¹² 那地方的金子很好，也出產珍珠和瑪瑙。¹³ 第二條支流叫基紅，環繞雇士全境。¹⁴ 第三條支流叫底格裏斯，流到亞述的東面。第四條支流叫幼發拉底。

¹⁵ 雅威天主讓人安居在伊甸園裏，叫他耕種，照顧樂園。¹⁶ 雅威天主對人下令說：

“你可以吃園裏任何樹上的果子，¹⁷ 唯有從善惡樹長出的果子不可以吃，你若吃了，你就會死。”

¹⁸ 雅威天主說：

“一個人單獨並不好，我要給他造一個合適的伴侶。”

¹⁹ 雅威天主就用塵土造了田野裏的各種動物和空中的飛鳥，把它們帶到人那裏，好看人怎麼給它們取名。凡人給這些動物命的名，就成了

commentary to Psalm 148.

Job 38 and 39. God answers Job, who blames Him for the evil in his life.

And making use of lyrical genre addresses God in prayer of praise and thanksgiving in the Psalms. Psalms are the prayer of Israel. They are the expression of human experience turned towards God. They are the expression of the life of a people dragged along by God.

Psalms were composed for repeated use: they are not to become exhaust by the first person who composes or orders it, nor by the first historical experience of the people.

You can also see:

Psalms 8, 24, 104, 136, 148. All of them talk about the creation of God.

Paradise and Sin

^{4b}On the day that Yahweh God made the earth and the heavens, ⁵there was not yet on the earth any shrub of the fields, nor had any plant yet sprung up, for Yahweh God had not made it rain on the earth, and there was no man to till the earth, ⁶but a mist went up from the earth and watered the surface of the earth.

⁷Then Yahweh God formed Man, dust drawn from the clay, and breathed into his nostrils a breath of life and Man became alive with breath.

⁸God planted a garden in Eden in the east and there he placed Man whom he had created.

⁹Yahweh God caused to grow from the ground every kind of tree that is pleasing to see and good to eat, also the tree of Life in the middle of the garden and the tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.

¹⁵Yahweh God took Man and placed him in the garden of Eden to till it and take care of it. ¹⁶Then Yahweh God gave an order to Man saying:

—You may eat of every tree in the garden, ¹⁷but of the tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, you will not eat, for on the day you eat of it, you will die.

¹⁸Yahweh God said:

It is not good for Man to be alone; I will give him a helper who will be like him.

¹⁹Then Yahweh God formed from the earth all the beasts of the field and all the birds of the air and brought them to Man to see what he would call them; and

這些動物的稱呼。20 於是人爲牲畜、天空飛鳥和所有的野獸取了名字。但是他在它們當中，沒有找到合適的伴侶。

21 雅威天主便讓人進入深深的睡夢中。在他睡著的時候，天主從他的身上取出一條肋骨，然後又用肉把原處和好。

22 雅威天主就用從那人身上取出來的肋骨造了一個女子，把她帶到這人身邊。

23 這人說：

“這才是我骨中的骨，肉中的肉。她要被稱爲女人，因爲她是從男人身上取出而成。”

24 爲此男人要離開自己的父母，去依附他的妻子，與妻子結合爲一體。

25 這男人和他妻子都是赤身裸體，卻並不感到羞恥。

誘惑和違命

天主創造的一切都是美好的、純潔和完美的。但是人類卻非如此，他們需要經歷痛苦、勞動和死亡。本書的作者想解釋爲什麼世界有這麼多的罪惡。和創世的故事一樣，作者寫這個故事的動機並非歷史記載，而只是用生動和象徵的手法，表達宗教的內涵。書中運用巧妙的描寫手法向人們展示了誘惑的本質。對於和天主的關係而言，人類更喜歡渺小且直接的利益。這就是人們本性最原始的問題。這種傾向、無知和順從是所有罪惡的根源，也就是我們所說的“原罪”。稱之爲原罪，並非因爲它發生在人類的起源時期，而是因爲它就是我們所有錯誤和罪惡的根本原因。

3 1 蛇是雅威天主創造的野獸當中最狡猾的動物。

蛇對女人說：

“天主是不是真的說過，你們不能隨便吃園內樹上的果子？”

2 女人對蛇說：

“我們可以吃園裏樹上的果實，3 只有園子中央那棵樹上的果實，天主說過：

你們不能吃，你們不能碰，否則你們會死。”

4 蛇對女人說：

“你們不會死的，5 因爲天主知道，如果你們吃了這果實，你們的眼就會開了，就可以像天主一樣知道什麼是善惡了。”

whatever Man called every living creature, that was its name. 20 So Man gave names to all the cattle, the birds of the air and to every beast of the field. But he did not find among them a helper like himself.

21 Then Yahweh God caused a deep sleep to come over Man and he fell asleep. He took one of his ribs and filled its place with flesh.

22 The rib which Yahweh God had taken from Man he formed into a woman and brought her to the man.

23 The man then said:

—Now this is bone of my bone and flesh of my flesh. She shall be called woman because she was taken from man.

24 That is why man leaves his father and mother and is attached to his wife, and with her becomes one flesh.

25 Both the man and his wife were naked and were not ashamed.

God has created everything good, innocent, perfect. But humanity is not like that: there is pain, work, death. In what follows the author of the book explains why there is so much evil in the world. Once again, the intention is not to tell what happened. The characters and actions are symbolic. It is a presentation, marvelously described, about the essence of temptation. Human beings prefer a small and immediate good to friendship with God. That is in the origin of humanity's problems. This tendency, ignorant and slaving, origin of all evils, is what we call "original sin". Not because it happened at the historical origin of humanity, but because it is at the deep root of all our mistakes, of all our sins.

3 1 Now the serpent was the craftiest of all the wild creatures that Yahweh God had made.

He said to the woman:

—Did God really say: You must not eat from any tree in the garden?

2 The woman said to the serpent:

3—We may eat the fruit of the trees in the garden, but of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden God said:

—You must not eat, and you must not touch it or you will die.

4 The serpent said to the woman:

5—You will not die, but God knows that the day you eat it, your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods, knowing good and evil.

6 女人覺得這棵樹的果子既好看，又好吃，又能使人得到智慧，便摘下果子來吃了，又給她丈夫吃。她丈夫也吃了。

7 他們的眼睛立刻開了，兩人都發覺自己是赤裸的，於是他們用無花果的葉子編成裙子，把身子圍起來。

8 那天的黃昏，他們聽見雅威在園子裏散步的聲音，男人和他的妻子便藏在花園的樹叢裏，躲避天主。

9 雅威天主呼喚男人，對他說：

“你在哪里？”

10 他說：

“我在園子裏，聽見你走動的聲音，感到害怕，因為我赤裸著身體，就躲起來了。”

11 天主說：

“誰跟你說的，你赤裸著身體？是不是你吃了我禁止你吃的果子？”

12 那人回答：

“你給我作伴的那女人把果子給我吃，我就吃了。”

13 天主就問那女人：

“你為什麼這樣做呢？”

她回答說：

“那蛇誘惑我，我就吃了。”

14 雅威天主對蛇說：

“你既然做了這事，在所有的牲畜和野獸中，要受到詛咒！你要靠著腹部爬行，終生吃泥土。

15 我要使你和女人互相仇恨，你的後代和她的後代互相為敵。她的後代要攻擊你的頭顱，你要攻擊他的腳跟。”

16 天主對女人說：“我會增加你懷孕的痛苦，你將在痛楚當中，生下你的兒女。你會依賴你的丈夫，他將管轄你。”

17 天主對男人說：

“因為你聽妻子的話，吃了我所禁食的果子，這塊地將因你而受到詛咒。你一生要辛勞地耕種，才能得到食物。18 這土地將長出荊棘和蒺藜，你將吃田裏的蔬菜。19 你必須汗流滿面，才有飯吃，直到你歸於塵土的那天，因為你來自於土。你既是塵土，你還要回歸到塵土裏去。”

20 這男人稱他的妻子為厄娃，因為她是眾生的母親。

21 雅威天主為男人和他妻子做了皮外衣，給他們穿上。

⁶The woman saw that the fruit was good to eat, and pleasant to the eyes, and ideal for gaining knowledge. She took its fruit and ate it and gave some to her husband who was with her. He ate it.

⁷Then their eyes were opened and both of them knew they were naked. So they sewed leaves of a fig tree together and made themselves loincloths. ⁸They heard the voice of Yahweh God walking in the garden, in the cool of the day, and they, the man and his wife, hid from Yahweh God among the trees of the garden.

⁹Yahweh God called the man saying to him:

—Where are you?

¹⁰He said:

—I heard your voice in the garden and I was afraid because I was naked, so I hid.

¹¹God said:

—Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree I ordered you not to eat?

¹²The man answered:

—The woman you put with me gave me fruit from the tree and I ate it.

¹³God said to the woman:

—What have you done?

The woman said:

—The serpent deceived me and I ate.

¹⁴Yahweh God said to the serpent:

—Since you have done that, be cursed among all the cattle and wild beasts! You will crawl on your belly and eat dust all the days of your life.

¹⁵I will make you enemies, you and the woman, your offspring and her offspring. He will crush your head and you will strike his heel.

¹⁷To the man, He said:

—Because you have listened to your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I forbade you to eat, cursed be the soil because of you! In suffering you will provide food for yourself from it, all the days of your life.

²⁰The man called his wife by the name of Eve, because she was the mother of all the living.

²¹Yahweh God made garments of skin for the man and his wife, and with these he clothed them.

加音和亞伯爾

這是一個非常古老的有關農夫和牧羊人的傳說，展示了這兩種人的不同特色。而作者利用這個傳說表達了本書最重要的一個主題，那就是：“不可殺人”。在閱讀的時候，請特別注意最後一段，第 15 節。

4 1 亞當和他的妻子厄娃同房後，她便懷孕生下一個孩子，取名叫加音，因為她說：

“雅威使我得到一個男子。” 2 後來她又生下加音的弟弟亞伯爾。亞伯爾是個牧人，看守羊群，而加音則耕田種地。

3 過一些時候，加音把地上出產的果實奉獻給雅威。4 亞伯爾則拿羊群中的頭胎羊和一些油脂作祭獻。雅威很喜歡亞伯爾和他的祭品，5 但卻不滿意加音和他的祭品。加音為此很惱怒，垂頭喪氣。

6 雅威對加音說：

“你為什麼沮喪生氣呢？7 如果你做得好，為什麼不擡起頭來？如果你做得不對，罪惡就藏在你門邊，企圖接近你，但你必須制服它。”

事後，8 加音對他弟弟亞伯爾說：

“我們到田裏去。”到了那裏，加音攻擊弟弟亞伯爾，把他殺了。

9 雅威問加音說：

“你弟弟亞伯爾在哪里？”

他回答：

“我不知道，難道我是弟弟的守護人嗎？”

10 雅威問他：

“你做了什麼事？你弟弟的血從地上向我哀號！11 現在你是地上受咒罵的人，大地張開口接受了你弟弟的鮮血，從此大地將驅逐你。12 你耕種的土地，再也不會出產作物。你將在大地上成為流離失所的人。”

13 加音對雅威說：

“你給我的責罰太重，我無法承擔。14 你看，今天你把我從這塊土地上趕走，從此我必須躲避你，到處流浪，看到我的人都會殺

Cain and Abel

It is a very, very old legend about grudges between farmers and cattlemen, represented by two typical personages. But the author has used it to portray what is perhaps the most important message of the whole book: YOU SHALL NOT KILL. Not even the killer. Pay special attention to the final passage, versicle 15.

4 1 Adam had intercourse with Eve his wife; she became pregnant and gave birth to a child. She named him Cain, for she said:

—I have got a man with help from Yahweh.

2 She later gave birth to Abel, his brother. Abel was a shepherd and kept flocks, and Cain tilled the soil. Cain was downcast. 6 Then Yahweh said to Cain:

—Why are you angry and downcast? 7 If you do right, why do you not look up? But if you are not doing what is right, sin is lurking at the door. It is striving to get you, but you must control it.

8 Cain said to his brother Abel:

—Let's go to the fields.

Once there, Cain turned on his brother Abel and killed him.

9 Yahweh said to Cain:

—Where is your brother, Abel?

He answered:

—I don't know; am I my brother's keeper?

10 Yahweh asked:

—What have you done? Your brother's blood cries out to me from the ground.

11 Now be cursed and driven from the ground that has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood that your hand has shed. 12 When you till the soil, it will no longer yield you its produce. You will be a fugitive wandering on the earth.”

13 Cain said to Yahweh:

—My punishment is greater than I can bear. 14 See! Today you drive me from this land. I must hide from you and be a wanderer and a fugitive on the earth, and it will so happen that whoever meets me will kill me.

15 Yahweh said to him:

我。”

15 雅威對他說：

“這樣吧，如果有誰殺害加音，他要受到七倍的報應。”雅威給加音作個記號，使得遇見他的人不殺害他。

16 加音離開了天主，在伊甸園東邊的諾得定居下來。

罪惡：洪水

作者運用歷史上發生的特大洪水的傳說，向以色列子民發表了一篇鼓勵懺悔的講道，向人們展示了罪惡的嚴重性，及天主對罪惡的厭惡和懲罰。

6 4 當神的兒子與人的女兒結婚生子時，地上已有巨人，（以後也有）。他們是古代的英雄，著名的人物。

5 雅威看到大地上的人們罪惡深重，心中裝滿邪惡念頭，6 就後悔在地上造了人。他感到傷心。7 於是他說：

“我要把我所造的人、野獸、爬蟲和飛鳥，都從地上消滅掉，因為我後悔造了他們。”

8 只有諾厄得受雅威的喜愛。

若厄方舟

9 以下是諾厄的故事。他是那時代唯一有正義感和光明磊落的人，常與天主來往。10 諾厄有三個兒子：閃、含和耶斐特。

11 大地在天主的眼中，變得腐敗了，處處充滿暴力。12 天主覺得大地是完全敗壞了，因為地上的人都走入了歧途。

13 天主就對諾厄說：

“我決定要毀滅所有的人，因為他們使大地充滿了暴力。因此我要把他們從地上消除掉。14 至於你，你要建造一艘香柏木的方舟，在方舟內蓋艙房，裏外都塗上瀝青。15 你要這樣造方舟：方舟長寬各五十肘，高三十肘。16 方舟上面做一層頂，在兩邊與上頂之間要留大約一肘的空間。方舟側面安一扇門，再做上、中、下三層艙面。17 我要使洪水泛濫，摧毀大地，要把天空下的所有生命和地上凡有氣息的活物，完全摧

—Well then, whoever kills Cain, will suffer vengeance seven times.

And Yahweh put a mark on Cain to prevent anyone who met him from killing him.

¹⁶Cain then went from Yahweh's presence and settled in the land of Nod, to the east of Eden.

Sin: Flood

Historical data of terrible past floods, made bigger by legends, is used by the author to make an important penitential sermon, showing the graveness of sin and its consequences.

6 ⁴At that time there were giants on the earth, and afterwards as well, when the sons of God went to the daughters of men and had children by them. These were the heroes of old, men of renown.

⁵Yahweh saw how great was the wickedness of man on the earth and that evil was always the only thought of his heart. ⁶Yahweh regretted having created man on the earth and his heart grieved. ⁷He said:

—I will destroy man whom I created and blot him out from the face of the earth, as well as the beasts, creeping creatures and birds, for I am sorry I made them.

⁸But Noah was pleasing to God.

Noah and the arc

^{9b}Noah was a just man, blameless among the people of his time, a man who walked with God. ¹⁰Noah became the father of three sons: Shem, Ham and Japheth.

¹¹The earth became corrupt in God's sight and was full of violence. ¹²God saw the earth and saw it was corrupt, for corrupt, indeed, was the way of all mortals.

¹³Yahweh said to Noah:

—I have in mind to destroy all people, for the earth is filled with violence because of them. This is why I will destroy them and with them the earth. ¹⁴As for you, build an ark of cypress wood. You will make rooms in the ark and coat it with pitch inside and outside. ¹⁷I am about to bring floodwaters on the earth to destroy the earth, to destroy all life under the heavens, every creature that has the breath of life. Everything on earth will perish, ¹⁸but I will establish my covenant with you.

毀。18 但我要與你訂立盟約。你、你的妻子、你的兒子和媳婦們都要進入方舟。19 你要從一切有氣息血肉的生物中，每種選雌雄一對，帶到方舟裏，好使它們在你身邊活下去。20 各種飛鳥、各種家畜和各種爬蟲，按照它們的種類，每種各選兩隻，和你一同進入方舟，以保存性命。21 帶各種食物進去，儲存起來，作為你和它們的糧食”。

22 諾厄按照天主所吩咐的做了。

若厄進入方舟

7 7 諾厄帶著他的孩子們、妻子、媳婦們，進到方舟裏，躲避洪水。8 潔淨和不潔淨的動物、鳥和地上的爬蟲，都跟隨諾厄進入方舟。9 它們照天主的吩咐，一雄一雌，成雙成對地進入方舟。

10 七天以後，洪水淹沒了大地。11 諾厄六百歲那年，二月十七日那一天，所有深淵裏的泉水洶湧而出，天上的水閘都開放了，

12 大雨在地上下了四十晝夜。

24 洪水在大地上泛濫了一百五十天。

洪水退去

8 1 天主想起了諾厄，和同他在方舟裏的一切動物和牲畜。天主在大地上吹過一陣風，水就開始退落。4 七月十七日方舟停在阿辣辣特山上。

6 四十天過去了，諾厄打開他方舟上的窗子，7 放出一隻烏鴉。烏鴉飛去又飛回，直到地上的水完全退去。8 諾厄又放出一隻鴿子，看看水是否已從地面上退下。9 鴿子找不到落腳的地方，便又飛回方舟，因為水仍然蓋住地面。於是諾厄伸出手，接住鴿子，帶回到方舟裏。10 他又等了七天，再把鴿子從方舟裏放出去。11 這一次，鴿子直到晚上才回來，口中含著一枝鮮綠的橄欖枝。諾厄知道水已從地面退了。12 他又等了七天，再放出一隻鴿子，鴿子沒有再回來。

You shall come into the ark, you, your wife, your sons and your sons' wives with you. ¹⁹You shall bring into the ark two of every kind of living thing, male and female, to keep them alive with you. ²⁰Of the birds, the animals and all creeping things on the ground, according to their kind, two of every sort shall come in to be kept alive with you. ²¹Take with you every sort of food that is eaten. Make a store of it and it will be food for you and them.

²²And Noah did all as God had commanded him.

Noah enters the ark

7 ⁷So Noah went into the ark with his children, his wife and his sons' wives to escape the waters of the flood. ⁸Clean animals and also unclean, birds, and all that crawls on the earth went into the ark with Noah; ⁹they went two and two, male and female, as God had commanded Noah.

¹⁰And after seven days the waters of the flood were over the earth. ¹¹In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month and on the seventeenth day of the month, all the fountains of the great deep burst forth.

¹²And there was a downpour on the earth lasting forty days and forty nights.

²⁴The waters flooded the earth for one hundred and fifty days.

End of the flood

8 ¹Then God remembered Noah and all the animals and cattle that were with him in the ark. God made a wind blow over the earth and the waters subsided. ⁴In the seventh month, in the seventeenth day of the month, the ark rested on Mount Ararat.

⁶At the end of the forty days Noah opened the window of the ark that he had built ⁷and let the raven out. This went off and kept flying to and fro until the waters had dried up from the earth. ⁸Then Noah let out the dove to see if the waters were receding from the earth. ⁹But the dove could not find a place to set its foot and flew back to him in the ark for the waters still covered the surface of the whole earth. So Noah stretched out his hand, took hold of it and brought it back to himself in the ark. ¹⁰He waited some more days and again sent the dove out from the ark. ¹¹This time the dove came back to him in the evening with a fresh olive branch in its beak. ¹²He waited seven more days and let the dove loose, but it did not return to him any more.

若厄離開方舟

15 天主對諾厄說：

16 “你和你妻子、兒子及媳婦都出來吧。17 把與你在一起的動物、飛鳥、牲畜和地上的昆蟲，也都帶出來。讓它們在地上生育繁殖！”

18 於是諾厄與妻子、兒子、媳婦一同走出方舟。19 所有的動物、飛鳥和地上的昆蟲，也都一一地出了方舟。

20 諾厄為雅威建造了一座祭壇。他把一些潔淨的動物和鳥，在祭壇上焚燒作為全燔祭。

21 雅威聞到這好聞的香味，就對自己說：

“我再也不會因為人的緣故而詛咒大地了，即使人們的心從小就懷著惡念，我也不會再像過去那樣毀滅一切生物了。

天主與若厄訂立盟約

9 1 天主祝福諾厄和他的兒子們，對他們說：

“你們要繁衍子孫，滋生人口，充滿世界。

2 地上的走獸和天上的飛鳥，大地上的各種爬蟲連同海裏的遊魚，都會對你們表示敬畏，這一切都交到你們手中。

3 凡會走動的活物都將成為你們的食物，就像我已賜給你們綠色的蔬菜一樣，現在我要將這一切都賜給你們。

4 只是不能吃帶血的肉，那是動物的生命。

5 我要追討殺害你們生命的血債，向每只野獸、每個人追討血債，甚至連人對他兄弟的血債也不放過。

6 因為天主用他的形象造人，所以傾流別人鮮血的，他自己也要用鮮血去賠償。

7 你們要繁衍子孫，增多人口，充滿世界，做世界的主人。”

Noah goes out of the arc

15 Then God said to Noah:

16—Come out of the ark, you and your wife, your sons and their wives with you. 17 Bring out with you all flesh, that is, all the animals who are with you, all things of flesh; birds, cattle and all that crawls on the earth. Let them abound on the earth, be fruitful and increase in number.

18 So Noah went out, with his sons, his wife and his sons' wives with him.

19 All the animals, all the birds, all that creeps on the earth, came out of the ark, one kind after another.

20 Noah built an altar to Yahweh and, taking some of all the clean animals and all the clean birds, he offered burnt offerings on it.

21 Yahweh smelled the pleasing aroma and said to himself:

—Never again will I curse the earth because of man, even though his heart is set on evil from childhood; never again will I strike down every living creature as I have done.

Covenant between God and Noah

9 1 God blessed Noah and his sons and he said to them:

—Be fruitful, multiply and fill the earth.

3 Everything that moves and lives shall be food for you; as I gave you the green plants.

5 And from man I will demand a reckoning for the life of his fellow man.

6 For in the image of God has God made man.

7 As for you, be fruitful and increase. Abound on the earth and be master of it.

8 天主對諾厄和他的兒子說：

12 “以下便是這盟約的記號，這盟約是我與你們及與你們在一起的動物所訂立的永久約定。13 我把彩虹放在雲層中，作為我和世界的盟約。14 當雲層遮蓋大地，彩虹在雲裏露出時，15 我就會想起我與你們，以及與你們在一起的動物所定的盟約，那樣就再也不會有洪水毀滅有生靈的萬物了。16 當彩虹出現在雲端時，我看到了，就會想起天主與地上每一種生物所訂立的永久之約。”

17 天主對諾厄說：

“這是我與地上一切生物所訂立的盟約記號。”

通過閱讀這段經文，我們很清楚地看到一個深刻而切實的宗教信念：就是宇宙的創造者天主，把世界交給了人類居住，人類必須照顧自己所生存的環境。天主是人類的審判者，如果人們作惡，天主將懲罰他們，所以他們才可以改變。然而天主的懲罰並非要治人於死地，而是為了他們的悔改。天上的彩虹是天主的戰舟，它永遠懸掛在天空，作為和平的象徵。這是天主在舊約中賜給人類的禮物。

巴貝爾塔

巴貝爾塔的故事是在人們看到雄偉的巴比倫金字塔以及巴比倫帝國的傲慢之後，有感而發的故事和傳說。

11 1 那時全世界只有一種語言，說一樣的話。2 當人們向東遷移的時候，在史納爾地方找到一塊平原，他們就在那裏定居下來。

3 他們互相說道：

“來吧！我們做磚頭，再用火把它燒硬”。

他們拿磚當石塊，瀝青代替灰泥。

4 他們又說：

“讓我們為自己建造一座城和一座塔，塔頂要通到天際，使我們成為一個偉大的民族，不會分散到各地！”

5 雅威下來，看看人們所建造的城市和高塔。6 雅威說：

“他們是一個民族，說一種語言。如果他們繼續下去，從此不論他們決定做什麼事，都會成功。7 來，讓我們下去，混亂他們的語言，使他

⁸God spoke to Noah and his son:

—This is the sign of the covenant I make between me and you, and every animal living with you for all future generations. ¹³I set my bow in the clouds and it will be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴When I bring clouds over the earth, ¹⁶when the rainbow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of every kind that exists on the earth.

¹⁷God said to Noah:

—This is the sign of the covenant I have made between me and all that has life on the earth.

We have seen in this text a very deep and valid religious conception: God, the Lord, gives the earth to humans, as their house, and humans will have to render account of it. God is an Ally of humans: if they behave bad, He will punish them so they can change, but never looking for death but for their conversion. The rainbow is God's arch of war, hanging in the firmament for ever, as a sign of peace. This will be a permanently present throughout the Old Testament.

The Babel Tower

The tower of Babel gets its inspiration in the pyramidal constructions of Babylon and its imperialists pretensions.

11 ¹The whole world had one language and a common speech. ²As people moved from east, they found a plain in the country of Shinar where they settled.

³They said to one another:

—Come, let us make bricks and bake them in fire.

They used brick for stone and bitumen for mortar.

⁴They said also:

—Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top reaching heaven; so that we may become a great people and not be scattered over the face of the earth!

⁵Yahweh came down to see the city and the tower that the sons of man were building, ⁶and Yahweh said:

—They are one people and they have one language. If they carry this through,

們再也不能明白彼此的話。”

8 於是雅威把他們驅散到世上各地，他們就不再建造這城。9 人稱那地為“巴貝耳”，因為雅威在那裏混亂了全地的言語，並把他們驅散到各地去。

族長時期：亞巴郎

我們現在由人類“歷史起源”進入了以色列民族的歷史。具有濃郁渲染的傳說使得這些祖先的經歷充滿了神秘主義色彩，而且成為民族宗教的領袖。

天主多次參與人類的歷史，為了召叫人追隨更好的命運，儘管這個命運是未知的，但是天主希望人走的道路。亞巴郎就是天主召叫的第一人，他相信了天主的召叫，離開了自己的家鄉。他相信天主對他的預許：“我要把這塊土地賜給你，我要讓你成為萬民之父。”

然而，亞巴郎的子孫並非都是聖賢，他們的生活充滿著陰暗面。但是作者並沒有掩飾他們的罪惡，反而借此展示天主就是利用人類的軟弱來實現自己的救恩計劃。

召叫亞巴郎

12 1 雅威對亞伯郎說：

“你要離開你的故鄉、
你的族人和你父親家，
到我指示你的地方去。

2 我要使你成為一個強大的民族。
我會祝福你，使你名聲顯赫，
人們因你而得蒙祝福。

3 我要祝福那些祝福你的人，
我要詛咒那些詛咒你的人，
世上萬民都將因你而蒙受祝福。”

4 於是亞伯郎按照雅威的指示，啟程動身。
羅特跟隨著他。亞伯郎離開哈蘭時七十五歲。

5 他帶著妻子莎拉依、侄兒羅特，和他們積蓄的財物，以及在哈蘭所獲得的人口，向迦南地前進。他們到了迦南。

nothing they decide to do from now on will be impossible. ⁷Come! Let us go down and confuse their language so that they will no longer understand each other.

⁸So Yahweh scattered them over all the earth and they stopped building the city. ⁹That is why it was called Babel, because there Yahweh confused the language of the whole earth and from there Yahweh scattered them over the whole face of the earth.

PATRIARCHAL CYCLE: ABRAHAM

We now shift from the “history” of all humanity to the history of the people of Israel. Their great ancestors are presented, figures aggrandized by legends, who became religious types.

God intervenes in history and He always does it to call humans to a better destiny, although apparently more demanding and unknown. Abraham will be, first of all, “the one who trusted in God”, thus he left his land, trusting in God’s promise: “I will give you this land, I will make you father of a great people.”

His descendants were more mediocre. There are many dark stops in their lives. The author does not hide them; he also chronicles their sins, showing that God uses human frailty to carry on with his plan of salvation.

Vocation of Abram

12¹Yahweh said to Abram:

—Leave your country,
your family and your father’s house,
for the land I will show you.

²I will make you a great nation.
I will bless you and make your name great,
and you will be a blessing.

³I will bless those who bless you,
and whoever curses you,
I will curse, and in you
all peoples of the earth will be blessed.

⁴So Abram went as Yahweh had told him, and Lot went with him.
Abram was seventy-five years old when he left Haran.

⁵Abram took Sarai, his wife, his nephew Lot, all the possessions they had accumulated and the people they had acquired in Haran. They set out for the land of Canaan.

6 亞伯郎經過這地方又到了舍根地，摩勒橡樹那裏，當時迦南人還住在那裏。

7 雅威顯現給亞伯郎，說：
“我要把這土地賜給你的子孫。”

亞伯郎就在那裏，為向他顯現的上主建了一座祭壇。

8 從那裏亞伯郎又繼續前行，來到貝特耳東面的山區，便在那裏紮營。貝特耳在他的西面，哈依在他的東面。他也在那裏築一座祭壇，獻給雅威，並且呼求雅威的聖名。

亞巴郎和羅特

13 1 亞伯郎從埃及往乃革布去，帶著他的妻子和隨身財物，羅特也跟著他同去。

12 亞伯郎定居在迦南地，而羅特住在河谷平原的城鎮中，並且逐漸向索多瑪遊牧遷移。13 索多瑪人非常邪惡，在雅威面前是大罪人。

14 羅特離開亞伯郎之後，雅威對亞伯郎說：

“請你舉目巡視這裏，眼觀東西南北地方，15 我要把你視力所及的土地，永遠賜給你和你的子孫。16 我要使你的子孫多如地上沙粒，若誰能數得清地上的沙粒，他也許能數得清你的子孫後人。17 起來吧，縱橫走遍這片土地，因為我要把它賜給你。”

天主和亞巴郎立約

15 1 這事之後，雅威在一個異象中對亞伯郎說：“亞伯郎，不要害怕，我是你的盾牌，我要給你豐厚的賞報！”

5 於是雅威把他帶到帳篷外面，對他說：

“擡頭看看天空，你能數得清天上的星星嗎？你的子孫將會像這天上的星星一樣多。”

6 亞伯郎相信了雅威。因著他的信德，雅威嘉許他為義人。

7 他說：

“我是雅威，是我把你從加色丁人的烏爾帶出來，我要把這地方賜給你，作為你的封邑和產業”。

⁶Abram traveled through the country as far as Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land.

⁷Yahweh appeared to Abram and said:

—To your descendants I will give this land.

There he built an altar to Yahweh who had appeared to him.

⁸From there he went on to the mountains east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel to the west and Ai to the east. There also he built an altar to Yahweh and called on the name of Yahweh.

Abram and Lot

13¹Abram went up from Egypt to the Negeb, he and his wife, with all he had and Lot with him.

¹²Abram settled in the country of Canaan while Lot lived among the towns of the plain and moved his tent as far as Sodom.

¹⁴Yahweh said to Abram after Lot had left him:

—Raise your eyes and look from where you are, towards the north, the south, the east and the west; ¹⁵all the land you see I will give to you and your descendants forever. ¹⁶I will make your descendants as the dust of the earth; if the grains of the dust can be counted, then your descendants may be counted.

Covenant of the Lord with Abram

15¹After this the word of Yahweh was spoken to Abram in a vision:

—Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward will be very great!

⁵Then Yahweh brought him outside and said to him:

—Look up at the sky and count the stars if you can. Your descendants will be like that.

⁶Abram believed Yahweh who, because of this, held him to be an upright man.

⁷And he said:

—I am Yahweh who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land as your possession.

17 1 亞伯郎九十九歲時，雅威顯現給他，對他說：

“我是全能的主。你當在我面前努力，做個誠實正直的人！2 我要和你訂立盟約，使你家族日益繁盛。”

3 亞伯郎俯伏在地，天主又對他說：

4 “這是我與你立的約：

你將成為萬民之父。5 你不再叫亞伯郎，而要叫亞伯拉罕，因為我將使你成為萬民之父。

6 你會聲名卓著，子孫繁多，發展成很多很多邦國，許多邦國的君王將從你的部落產生。7 我要在我和你以及你的子孫之間，訂立盟約，世世代代永久的盟約。我是你的天主，也是你子孫後代的天主。8 我會把你現今僑居的地方，就是迦南全境，賜給你和你的子孫，當做永久的產業，我將是你子孫後代的天主。”

15 天主對亞伯郎說：

“至於你的妻子莎拉依，你不要再叫她莎拉依，而要稱她莎拉。16 我會祝福她，賜給你一個由她而生的兒子。我會祝福她，使萬國由她而興起，她的後代將出君王。”

亞巴郎的代禱

18 17 雅威說：

“我要做的事，怎麼能瞞著亞伯郎？亞伯郎必將成為一個強大的民族，18 因著他，普天之下所有的邦國將受到祝福，19 因為我已經揀選了他，要他訓導自己的子孫和未來的家族，遵守雅威的道，伸張正義。果真如此，我就可在亞伯郎身上實現自己的諾言。”

20 雅威說：

“索多瑪和哈摩辣的罪惡深重，要求伸張正義的呼聲很高。21 我要下去看看對他們的控訴是否真實，把事情弄清楚，看到底是不是那樣。”

23 亞伯郎走上前說：

“你真的要讓義人和惡人一同毀掉嗎？24 這城或許還有五十個好人，你真的想毀滅他們嗎？你不會因這五十個義人的緣故，而赦免這地方嗎？25 你不能讓好人和壞人一同毀滅，你也不能讓壞人

17 1When Abram was ninety-nine years old, Yahweh appeared to him and said:

—I am God Almighty. Walk in my presence and be without blame! 2I will make a covenant between myself and you, and I will multiply your race.

3Abram fell face down and God said to him:

4—This is my covenant with you: you will be the father of a multitude of nations. 5No longer will you be called Abram, but Abraham, because I will make you the father of a multitude of nations. 7And I will establish a covenant, an everlasting covenant between myself and you and your descendants after you; from now on I will be your God and the God of your descendants after you, for generations to come. 8I will give to you and your descendants after you the land you are living in, all the land of Canaan, as an everlasting possession and I will be the God of your race.

15God said to Abraham:

—As for Sarai, your wife, no longer are you to call her Sarai, but Sarah. 16I will bless her, and I will give you a son by her.

Intercession of Abraham

18 17Yahweh said:

—Can I conceal from Abraham what I am about to do? 18Abraham, in fact, is going to become a great and powerful nation and through him all the nations of the earth will be blessed, 19for I have chosen him to command his sons and his household after him to keep the way of the Lord by doing what is right and just, so that Yahweh may bring about for Abraham what he has promised him.

20Then Yahweh said:

—How great is the cry for justice against Sodom and Gomorrah! And how grievous is their sin! 21I am going down to see if they have done all that they are charged with in the outcry that has reached me. If it is not so, I will know.

23Abraham went forward and said:

—Will you really let the just perish with the wicked? 24Perhaps there are fifty good people in the town. Are you really going to let them perish? Would you not spare the place for the sake of these fifty righteous people? 25It would not be at all

和好人一起受罰。你不能做那樣的事！審判大地的天主一定是公正的！”

26 雅威說：

“如果我在索多瑪找到五十個好人，我會因著他們而赦免整個城。”

27 亞伯郎又說：

“我知道，我這樣對主說話，實在是膽大妄為，我卑微如土！

28 假如還差五個才能湊成五十個義人，你會因為少了這五個而毀滅這城嗎？”

雅威回答：

“如果我找到四十五個義人，我也不會毀滅這城。”

29 亞伯郎又對他說：

“如果只有四十個義人呢？”

雅威回答：

“為了這四十個義人，我不會毀滅這城。”

30 亞伯郎又繼續說：

“願我的主不要生氣，讓我再跟你說。如果城裏只有三十個義人呢？”

雅威回答：

“如果我在這裏找到三十個義人，我也不會毀滅這城。”

31 亞伯郎接著又說：

“現在我非常大膽地對我主說，如果只能找到二十個義人呢？”

雅威說：

“為了這二十個義人，我也不毀這城。”

32 但是亞伯郎堅持說：

“願我的主不要動怒，請讓我再說一次。如果只能找到十個義人你怎麼辦呢？”

雅威回答：

“僅為了這十個義人，我也不會毀滅索多瑪。”

33 雅威對亞伯郎說完，便離開了。亞伯郎就回家了。

根據以色列的傳統，他們認為亞巴郎是“天主的朋友。”在這篇記載中，作者巧妙的描寫方式描述了亞巴郎為索多瑪向天主哀求。

like you to do such a thing and you can't let the good perish with the wicked, nor treat the good and the wicked alike. Far be it from you! Will not the judge of all the earth be just?

26Yahweh said:

—If I find fifty good people in Sodom, I will spare the whole place for their sake.

27Abraham spoke up again:

—I know that I am very bold to speak like this to my Lord, I who am only dust and ashes! 28But perhaps the number of the good is five less than fifty. Will you destroy the town because of five?

Yahweh replied:

—I will not destroy the town if I find forty-five good people there.

29Again Abraham said to him:

—Perhaps there will be only forty.

He answered:

—For the sake of forty I will not do it.

30Abraham went on, saying:

—May my Lord not be angry, but let me speak. Maybe only thirty good people will be found in the town.

Yahweh answered:

—I will not destroy it if I find thirty there.

31Abraham said:

—Now that I have been so bold as to speak to my Lord, what if only twenty can be found?

He said:

—For the sake of twenty I will not destroy the place.

32But Abraham insisted:

—May my Lord not be angry, but let me speak just once more. What if only ten can be found?

And Yahweh answered:

—For the sake of ten good people, I will not destroy Sodom.

33When Yahweh had finished speaking with Abraham, he left and Abraham went home.

Israel's tradition has always seen Abraham as "the friend of God". In its ingenuity and deepness, it is moving the image of Abraham bargaining with God to save the just of Sodoma.

19 ²⁹ 當天主毀滅這平原上的城市時，他想起了亞伯郎，於是在他要毀滅羅特所住的城市時，先救羅特逃離這場災難。

依撒各誕生

21 ² 莎拉懷孕了，在亞伯郎年紀很大的時候，為他生下一個兒子，孩子在雅威指定的時間出生。³ 亞伯郎將莎拉生的兒子取名為依撒格。並按照天主的吩咐，⁴ 在兒子生下第八天舉行割禮。

³⁴ 亞伯郎在非利士坦人的土地上住了很長一段時間。

祭獻依撒各

這個故事令人迷惑，天主對亞巴郎的命令似乎有些血腥和不盡人情。事實上，作者這裏引述了以色列子民之前有關祭獻活人的故事，並以動物代替孩子祭獻天主的傳統。作者用這個充滿傳奇色彩的傳說表達了亞巴郎對天主的絕對信賴。皆大歡喜的結局顯示出天主可以從壞事中生出好事來，人即使在最困惑的時候，也應該信賴天主。

22 ¹ 過了一些時候，天主想試探亞伯郎，便對他說：
“亞伯郎！”

他回答：
“我在這兒。”

² 天主說：
“帶著你心愛的獨子依撒格，到摩黎雅去，在我指給你的一座山上，將他做全燔祭獻給我。”

³ 第二天早上，亞伯郎起來，套好驢子，帶了兩個年輕僕人和他兒子依撒格；劈好燒全燔祭用的木柴，動身往天主指示他的地方去。⁴ 第三天，亞伯郎擡頭遠遠看到那地方，⁵ 便對僕人們說：

“你們和驢子留在這裏，我和孩子要到那兒去朝拜，然後再回到你們這兒。”

⁶ 亞伯郎把全燔祭用的木材，背在孩子肩上。他手中拿著火和刀，兩

19 ²⁹ So when God destroyed the towns of the plain he remembered Abraham and made Lot escape from the catastrophe while he destroyed the cities where Lot had lived.

Birth of Isaac

21 ² Sarah became pregnant and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the very time Yahweh had promised. ³ Abraham gave the name Isaac to the son that Sarah bore him ⁴ and circumcised him when he was eight days old, as Yahweh had commanded.

³⁴ And Abraham stayed in the land of the Philistines for a long time.

The Sacrifice of Isaac

This story is confusing. It seems a cruel actuation of God. In reality, the writer has taken a very old story, previous to Israel, of human sacrifices, and cancelled it by substituting children with animals. As a result a kind of fable is created that magnifies the great obedience of Abraham. The happy ending shows that even in the worst scenarios one can still trust in God.

22 ¹ Some time later God tested Abraham and said to him:
—Abraham!

And he answered:
—Here I am.

² Then God said:

—Take your son, your only son, Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains I shall point out to you.

³ Abraham rose early next morning and saddled his donkey and took with him two of his young men and his son Isaac. He chopped wood for the burnt offering and set out for the place to which God had directed him. ⁴ On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance, ⁵ and he said to the young men:

—Stay here with the donkey. The boy and I will go over there to worship and then we will come back to you.

⁶ Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son. He

人一同走去。

7 依撒格對父親亞伯郎說：

“爸爸！” 8 亞伯郎回答：“孩子，什麼事？”

依撒格就問：

“火和木柴都有了，可是燔祭的羔羊在哪里呢？”

亞伯郎說：

“天主會親自預備全燔祭的羔羊。”

他們兩人一起往前走，9 來到天主指示他們的地方。亞伯郎搭好祭壇，把木柴堆在上面，將兒子依撒格捆好，放在堆著木柴的祭臺上，10 然後他伸手拿刀，正要宰獻自己的兒子時，11 忽然聽見雅威的天使從天上呼叫他：

“亞伯郎！亞伯郎！”

他說：

“我在這裏。”

12 天使說：

“不要對這孩子下手，不要傷害他，因為現在我知道你敬畏天主，爲了我，你沒有顧惜你的獨子。”

13 亞伯郎四處觀望，看到身後有只公羊，羊角正被灌木纏住，他便宰殺了這羊，替代自己的兒子做全燔祭。14 亞伯郎遂稱摩黎雅這地方爲“雅威自會預備”。一直到今天，人們還說：“在山上，雅威自會預備”。

15 雅威的天使從天上再次呼喚亞伯郎。

16 對他說：

“我用自己的名雅威發誓，是我在說話，因著你不曾顧惜你的獨子這件事，17 我定要給你賞報，使你的後代子孫如天上的繁星，又如海邊的沙粒一樣不可勝數。你的子孫會征服並擁有敵人的土地。 18 地上所有的邦國都會因你的子孫蒙受祝福，因爲你遵從了我的話。”

19 亞伯郎於是回到他僕人那裏。他們一同回到貝爾舍巴，就此定居在貝爾舍巴。

carried in his hand the fire and the knife. As the two of them went on together,

⁷Isaac spoke to Abraham, his father:

—Father!

⁸And Abraham replied:

—Yes, my son?

Isaac said:

—The fire and the wood are here, but where is the lamb for the sacrifice?

Abraham replied:

—God himself will provide the lamb for the sacrifice.

They went on, the two of them together, ⁹until they came to the place to which God had directed them. When Abraham had built the altar and set the wood on it, he bound his son Isaac and laid him on the wood placed on the altar. ¹⁰He then stretched out his hand to seize the knife and slay his son. ¹¹But the Angel of Yahweh called to him from heaven:

—Abraham! Abraham!

And he said:

—Here I am.

¹²Yahweh told him:

—Do not lay your hand on the boy; do not harm him, for now I know that you fear God, and you have not held back from me your only son.

¹³Abraham looked around and saw behind him a ram caught by its horns in a bush. He offered it as a burnt offering in place of his son. ¹⁴Abraham named the place ‘The Lord will provide.’ And the saying has lasted to this day.

¹⁵And the Angel of Yahweh called from heaven a second time:

¹⁶—By myself I have sworn, it is Yahweh who speaks, because you have done this and not held back your son, your only son, ¹⁷I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the lands of their enemies. ¹⁸All the nations of the earth will be blessed through your descendants because you have obeyed me.

¹⁹So Abraham returned to his servants, and they set off together for Beersheba and it was there that Abraham stayed.

族長時代：依撒各

在下面的章節裏，我們就會發現很重要的宗教資訊。這些古老的傳說表達了以色列子民的傳統和其他臨近民族的起源，作者試圖表達的，就是確定的宗教意義。

25 19 下面是亞伯郎的兒子依撒格的小史。

20 依撒格與黎貝加成親時已四十歲。黎貝加就是帕丹阿蘭的阿蘭人員突耳的女兒。她還有個哥哥叫拉班。21 依撒格替黎貝加向雅威禱告，因為她沒有生育。雅威垂聽了依撒格的祈求，他妻子黎貝加懷孕了。22 當孩子在她腹中互相擠壓時，她說：

“如果孩子這樣彼此相爭，我活下去還有什麼意思？”

於是她去祈求雅威，23 雅威對她說：

“你腹中孕育了兩個民族，一族會比另一族強盛，將來大的要侍奉小的。”

24 當她分娩時，果真生了一對雙胞胎。

25 首先生下來的的身體發紅，全身有毛，像穿了毛絨外衣一樣，所以他叫他厄撒烏（希伯來文即指多毛之意）。26 弟弟接著出生，他的手抓著厄撒烏腳跟，所以他叫他雅各伯（就是腳跟的意思）。他們出生時，依撒格已經六十歲了。

27 這對男孩漸漸長大，厄撒烏成了熟練的獵手，喜歡野外生活，而雅各伯性格內向安靜，喜歡待在帳篷裏。28 依撒格因為愛吃獵物，所以喜歡厄撒烏，但是黎貝加則偏愛雅各伯。

29 有一天雅各伯正在燉湯，厄撒烏從田野回來，肚子很餓，30 便對雅各伯說：

“給我吃點這紅的濃湯吧，因為我餓的很。”因此厄撒烏又叫厄東（希文指紅的意思）。

31 雅各伯說：

“你得先把長子的名份賣給我。”

32 厄撒烏說：

“我都快餓死了，這長子的名份對我有什麼用呢？”

33 雅各伯說：

“那你得先對我發誓。”

於是厄撒烏對他發誓，把長子的名份賣給了雅各伯。34 雅各伯才把麵包和煮好的扁豆湯給他吃。厄撒烏吃飽了後，就起身離開。厄撒烏就這樣放棄了他長子的名份。

PATRIARCHAL CYCLE: ISAAC

In the following passages little we will find about important religious messages. These are old stories, present in the tradition on the origin of these people as well as other neighbor peoples; the authors try to give a certain religious meaning.

25 19 This is the story of Isaac, son of Abraham.

20 Isaac was forty when he married Rebekah, daughter of Bethuel, the Aramean from Paddan-aram, the sister of Laban the Aramean. 21 Isaac prayed to Yahweh for his wife, because she could not have children. Yahweh heard Isaac's prayer and Rebecca, his wife, conceived. 22 As the children struggled together within her, she said:

—If it is like this, why do I continue to live?

She went to consult Yahweh, 23 and Yahweh said to her:

—Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples will be born of you; one nation will be stronger than the other, and the elder shall serve the younger.

24 When the time came for her to give birth, there were twins in her womb.

25 The first to be born was red and his whole body was like a hairy garment, so they called him Esau. 26 Then his brother was born and his hand had gripped Esau's heel so he was named Jacob. Isaac was sixty at the time of their birth.

27 When the boys grew up, Esau became a skillful hunter, a man of the open country; Jacob was a quiet man living in tents. 28 Isaac who had a liking for game loved Esau, but Rebecca loved Jacob.

29 Once when Jacob was making a stew, Esau came back from the country and he was famished; 30 and he said to Jacob:

—Let me have some of that red stew, for I am famished. That is why he was also called Edom.

31 Jacob said:

—First sell me your right as the firstborn.

32 Esau said:

—Since I am to die soon, what good is my right as the firstborn to me?

33 Then Jacob said:

—Give me your oath first.

So he swore to him and sold his firstborn right to Jacob. 34 Then Jacob gave him bread and the lentil stew. Esau ate and drank and then got up and went his way. So it was that Esau thought nothing of his right as the firstborn.

依撒各降福雅各伯

27 ¹ 依撒格年老了，雙目幾乎失明，看不見了，他把長子厄撒烏叫來，對他說：

“孩子！”

厄撒烏回答：

“我在這裏。”

² 依撒格又說：

“你看，我已老了，不知道什麼時候就會死了。³ 拿著你的武器：弓和箭，到田裏去打一些獵物來給我。⁴ 再做成我喜愛的口味，端給我吃，好讓我在去世之前祝福你。”

⁵ 依撒格對兒子厄撒烏說的話，讓黎貝加聽見了。趁厄撒烏去田裏打獵時，⁶ 黎貝加對她小兒子雅各伯說：

“我聽見你爸爸對你哥哥厄撒烏說：⁷ ‘打些獵物回來，煮好了讓我吃，我要在死之前，當著雅威的面祝福你。’⁸ 現在，孩子呀！照我吩咐你的話去做。⁹ 到羊群裏捉兩隻肥美的小山羊回來，我要為你父親準備好他喜歡的口味。¹⁰ 你端去給父親吃，他吃了，會在死之前祝福你。”

¹¹ 雅各伯對黎貝加說：

“我哥哥厄撒烏全身長毛，而我皮膚光滑。¹² 爸爸如果摸我，知道了我是在騙他，我招來的不是祝福，而是咒罵。”

¹³ 但是他母親說：

“讓咒罵歸我身上吧！我兒，你只管照我的話去做，把小山羊帶來。”

¹⁴ 於是他把小山羊帶來交給母親，他母親做好了父親喜歡的口味。¹⁵ 黎貝加又把厄撒烏留在家裏最好的衣服，給她小兒子雅各伯穿上，¹⁶ 再用山羊皮蓋上他雙手和脖子上露出來的部分，¹⁷ 並把做好的麵包和食物交給他。

¹⁸ 雅各伯到父親那裏說：

“爸爸！”

父親回答：

“我在這裏，孩子，你是哪個？”

¹⁹ 雅各伯對他爸爸說：

Isaac blesses Jacob

27 ¹When Isaac was old and his eyes so weak that he could no longer see, he called Esau, his older son, and said to him:

—My son!

He answered:

—Here I am.

²Isaac continued:

—You see I am old and I don't know when I shall die; ³so take your weapons, your bow and arrow, go out into the country and hunt some game for me. ⁴Then prepare some of the savory food I like and bring it to me so that I may eat and give you my blessing before I die.

⁵Now Rebecca was listening when Isaac spoke to his son Esau. When Esau went into the country to hunt game and bring it back, ⁶Rebecca said to her son Jacob:

—I heard your father saying to your brother Esau: ⁷‘Bring me some game and prepare food for me that I may eat and bless you before Yahweh before I die.’
⁸Now my son, listen and do what I command you. ⁹Go to the flock and bring me two fine kids so that I can prepare for your father the food that he likes. ¹⁰You will bring it to your father and he will eat it and give you his blessing before he dies.

¹¹Jacob said to Rebecca:

—My brother Esau is a hairy man and I am smooth-skinned. ¹²Perhaps my father will feel me and I will seem to be tricking him and so bring a curse on myself instead of a blessing.

¹³But his mother said:

—Let the curse fall on me, my son! Only do what I tell you; go and get the kids for me.

¹⁴So he went and got them and took them to his mother to prepare food that his father liked. ¹⁵Then Rebecca took the best clothes of her elder son Esau that she had in the house and put them on Jacob, her younger son. ¹⁶With the goatskin she covered his hands and the smooth part of his neck, ¹⁷and she handed to him the bread and food she had prepared.

¹⁸He went to his father and said:

—Father!

He answered:

—Yes, my son, who is it?

¹⁹and Jacob said to his father:

“我是你的長子厄撒烏。我已照著你的話去做了。坐起來，吃下我獵回來的東西，這樣你便可以祝福我了。”

20 依撒格說：

“你怎麼這麼快就打回來了？孩子！”

雅各伯說：

“因為雅威，你的天主幫我帶路啊。”

21 依撒格對雅各伯說：

“走近些，讓我摸摸你，孩子，讓我弄清楚，你是不是我兒子厄撒烏。”

22 雅各伯走近依撒格，讓父親摸摸他。父親說：

“你的聲音聽起來像是雅各伯，但是你的手卻像哥哥厄撒烏的手，有很多毛。”

23 依撒格沒有分辨出來，就祝福了他。24 依撒格問：

“你真的是我的大兒子厄撒烏嗎？”

雅各伯回答：

“我真的是！”

25 依撒格說：

“孩子，把食物端給我，我要吃兒子獵回來的野味，吃完我好祝福你。”

於是雅各伯侍候他父親吃做好的食物，還拿酒給他。26 父親依撒格對他說：

“孩子，走近親吻我。”

27 雅各伯就走過去親吻父親。

依撒格聞到雅各伯衣服的氣味，就祝福他說：

“我兒身上的香味，

如同雅威祝福的大地所發出的清香。

28 願天主賜你天降甘霖，地產富饒；

願天主賜你五穀豐收，新酒芳醇。

29 讓人們服侍你，

讓諸邦叩拜你。

願你成為兄弟的大家長，

願同母的兄弟屈膝于你。

凡咒詛你的，

將被咒詛；

凡祝福你的，

將被祝福！”

—It is Esau, your firstborn; I have done what you told me to do. Come, sit up and eat my game so that you may give me your blessing.

20 Isaac said:

—How quick you have been my son!

Jacob said:

—Yahweh, your God, guided me.

21 Isaac said to Jacob:

—Come near and let me feel you, my son, and know that it is you, Esau my son, or not.

22 When Jacob drew near to Isaac, his father felt him and said:

—The voice is the voice of Jacob but the hands are the hands of Esau.

23 He did not recognize him, for his hands were hairy like the hands of Esau his brother and so he blessed him. 24 He asked:

—Are you really my son Esau?

And Jacob answered:

—I am.

25 Isaac said:

—Bring me some of your game, my son, so that I may eat and give you my blessing.

So Jacob brought it to him and he ate. And he brought him wine and he drank.

26 Then his father Isaac said to him:

—**Come near and kiss me, my son.**

27 So Jacob came near and kissed him.

Isaac then caught the smell of his clothes and blessed him, saying:

—The smell of my son
is like the smell of a field
which the Lord has blessed.

28 May God give you of the dew of heaven;
and of the richness of the earth;
and abundance of grain and wine.

29 Let peoples serve you
and nations bow down before you.
Be lord over your brothers,
and let your mother's sons bow down to you.
Cursed be everyone that curses you
and blessed be everyone
that blesses you!

30 依撒格祝福完了雅各伯。雅各伯剛離開父親的房間，厄撒烏就打獵回來了。31 他也煮好了獵物，端給父親吃，對父親說：

“爸爸，坐起來，吃你兒子煮的獵物，這樣你便可以祝福我了。”

32 依撒格問：

“你是誰呀？”

“我是你的長子厄撒烏啊。”

33 依撒格渾身顫抖，說：

“那麼剛才把獵物送來給我吃的是誰？在你回來之前，我已吃了那獵物且已祝福了他，那祝福將永遠屬於他。”

34 厄撒烏一聽這話，非常難過，就大聲痛哭說：

“爸爸，請你也祝福我。”

35 但是依撒格說：

“你弟弟進來欺騙我，已搶走了你的祝福。”

36 厄撒烏說：

“難怪他叫雅各伯，他已騙了我兩次。前次他騙去了我長子的名份，現在又搶走我的祝福。”

他又問父親：

“你難道沒有留些祝福給我嗎？”

37 依撒格回答厄撒烏說：

“我已立他為一家之主，其他的兄弟都要做他的僕人，我已賜給他五穀和美酒。孩子，我現在還能為你做什麼呢？”

38 厄撒烏對他父親說：

“您難道只有一個祝福嗎？爸爸，也祝福我吧！”

厄撒烏放聲大哭起來，39 依撒格遂答道：

“你的住處將遠離肥沃的土地，將遠離天上的甘露；

40 你要依靠刀劍度日，

你要服侍你的弟弟。

然而將有那麼一天，

你從頸項上掙脫他的軛。”

雅各伯逃往拉班家

41 厄撒烏現在更加痛恨弟弟，因為父親將祝福給了他。厄撒烏心想：

“為父親服喪的日子近了，到時候，我要殺掉弟弟雅各伯。”

42 有人把長子厄撒烏的話告訴黎貝加，她便派人把幼子雅各伯叫來，對他說：

30 When Isaac had finished blessing him and Jacob had just left Isaac's room, Esau came in from hunting. 31 He also prepared food and brought it to his father and said to him:

—Father, sit up and eat the game your son has prepared, so that you may give me your blessing.

32 Isaac said:

—Who are you?

—I am your son, your firstborn, Esau.

33 Isaac trembled violently and said:

—Who was it then that hunted game and brought it to me? I ate it all before you came and I blessed him and he will be blessed.

34 On hearing his father's words, Esau gave a loud and bitter cry and said:

—Bless me, too, father.

35 But Isaac said:

—Your brother came deceitfully and took your blessing.

36 Esau said:

—Is it because he is called Jacob that he has supplanted me twice? First he took my birthright and now he has taken my blessing.

Then he asked:

—Haven't you kept a blessing for me?

37 Isaac answered Esau:

—I have made him your lord. I have given him all his brothers as servants; I have provided him with grain and wine. What can I do for you, my son?

38 Esau said to his father:

—Have you only one blessing? Father, bless me, too. Then Esau wept aloud.

39 Isaac then gave him this answer:

—Your dwelling place shall be far away from the richness of the earth, away from the dew of heaven above.

40 You shall live by your sword,

and you shall serve your brother;

but when you win your freedom

you will throw off his yoke from your neck.

41 Now Esau continued to hate his brother because of the blessing his father had given him and he thought to himself:

—The time of mourning for my father is near; I shall then kill my brother Jacob.

42 When Rebecca was told what her elder son had said, she sent and called her younger son, Jacob, and said to him:

“你哥哥想報仇殺了你。43 現在，孩子，聽我說，快逃到哈蘭我哥哥拉班那裏。44 留在他那邊一段時間，45 直到你哥哥怒氣消了，忘掉你做過的事，我再派人把你接回來。爲什麼我該在同一天失去你們兩人？”

族長時代：雅各伯

朝聖者——雅各伯

28 1 依撒格把雅各伯叫來，祝福他，囑咐他說：

“不要和迦南女子結婚。2 到帕丹阿蘭你母親的爸爸貝突耳家去，再從拉班的女兒當中，爲自己選一位妻子。3 願全能的天主祝福你，使你子孫繁衍增多，成爲一個大家族。

雅各伯在貝爾舍巴

10 雅各伯離開了貝爾舍巴，到哈蘭去。11 他來到一個地方，太陽已下山，他就在那裏過夜。雅各伯搬了一個石塊當枕頭，躺下來就睡著了。

12 雅各伯睡夢中看見一個梯子立在地上，階梯頂端與天相接，天主的天使在階梯上往來。13 雅威正站在他旁邊，對他說：

“我是雅威，是你祖父亞伯郎的天主，也是依撒格的天主。我要把你現在睡覺的地方賜給你和你的子孫。

14 你的子孫會多如地上塵沙，擴張到四面八方。地上萬民諸邦將因你和你的子孫而蒙受祝福。15 看，我與你同在，不論你到那兒去，我都會保佑你。我會把你再帶回這裏，我絕不會遺棄你，直到我實踐了自己的承諾爲止。”

16 雅各伯從夢裏醒來，說：

“雅威真的在這地方，我竟不知道。”

17 他懷著敬畏，說：

“這地方多麼可畏！這裏一定是天主的殿宇，通往天堂的門！”

18 雅各伯一大早起來，把當枕頭用的那塊石頭豎起來，並從頂端澆下一些油。

—Your brother Esau is consoling himself with the thought of killing you. 43Now my son, listen to me and flee to Laban, my brother, in Haran. 44You will stay with him for a time 45until your brother's fury has cooled; and when he has forgotten his anger and what you did to him, I will send someone to bring you back. Why should I lose both of you on the same day?

PATRIARCHAL CYCLE: JACOB

Jacob a Pilgrim

28 1 Isaac summoned Jacob and blessed him and commanded him:

—Do not marry a Canaanite woman. 2Go to Paddan-aram, to the house of Bethuel, your mother's father, and choose a wife for yourself from the daughters of Laban, your mother's brother. 3May God Almighty bless you and make you increase to become a group of nations.

Jacob at Bethel

10Jacob left Beersheba and set out for Haran. 11When he reached a certain place the sun had set and he spent the night there. He took one of the stones that were there and using it as a pillow, he lay down to sleep.

12While Jacob was sleeping, he had a dream in which a ladder stood on the earth with its top reaching to heaven and on it were angels of God going up and coming down. 13And Yahweh was standing there near him and said:

—I am Yahweh, the God of your father, Abraham, and the God of Isaac. The land on which you sleep, I give to you and your descendants.

14Your descendants will be numerous like the specks of dust of the earth and you will spread out to the west and the east, to the north and the south. Through you and your descendants all the nations of the earth will be blessed. 15See, I am with you and I will keep you safe wherever you go. I will bring you back to this land and not leave you until I have done what I promised.

16Jacob woke from his dream and said:

—Truly, Yahweh was in this place and I was not aware of it.

17He was afraid and said:

—How full of awe is this place! It is nothing less than a *House of God*; it is the Gate to Heaven!

18Then Jacob rose early and took the stone he had put under his head and set it up as a pillar and poured oil on the top of it.

依撒各逝世

35 23 雅各伯共有十二個兒子：由肋阿生的有：雅各伯的長子勒烏本，其次是西默盎、肋未、猶大、依撒加爾和則步隆。

24 由辣黑耳生的有：若瑟和本雅明。

25 由辣黑耳的女僕彼耳哈生的有：丹和納斐塔裏。

26 由肋阿的女僕齊耳帕生的有：加得和阿協爾。這些都是雅各伯在帕丹阿蘭生的兒子。

27 雅各伯來到克黎雅特阿爾巴（又叫赫貝龍），就是瑪默勒他父親依撒格那裏，亞伯郎和依撒格曾住過的地方。28 依撒格活了一百八十歲。29 他享盡天年，咽下最後一口氣，歸依到先祖那裏去。他兒子厄撒烏和雅各伯將他埋葬。

若瑟的故事

若瑟的故事是整部舊約中最優美的故事之一。這段記載的歷史性值得懷疑，它看起來更像是一個具有倫理教育意義的歷史小說。

這個故事表達的資訊非常明顯，那就是天主永遠保持對正義者的信實。不管發生了什麼不幸，天主永遠和信賴他的人在一起，保持信實，並降福保有信賴他的人。

信賴天主的人遭遇不幸的事件在舊約中出現了多次，但是每一次的結局並非都是皆大歡喜。其中表達最為生動的，當屬舊約中的《約伯傳》。

若瑟的夢

37 1 雅各伯在他祖先定居的迦南地生活。

2 下面是雅各伯家族的小史。若瑟年方十七，與哥哥們一同放羊，就是父親的兩個妾室比拉和齊耳帕所生的兒子們。若瑟常將哥哥們所做的壞事報告給父親。3 以色列喜愛若瑟甚于其他的孩子，因為若瑟是他老年才生下的孩子。他還為這孩子縫製一件彩色長袖衣袍。4 哥哥們看到自己的父親如此寵愛若瑟，更甚於愛他們，就忌恨起若瑟來，不再友善地和若瑟說話。

Death of Isaac

35 22 Jacob had twelve sons. 23 By Leah: Reuben, Jacob's eldest son, then Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar and Zebulun.

24 The sons by Rachel: Joseph and Benjamin.

25 The sons by Bilhah, Rachel's slave girl: Dan and Naphtali.

26 The sons by Zilpah, Leah's slave girl: Gad and Asher. These were the sons born to Jacob in Paddanaram.

27 Jacob came home to his father Isaac at Mamre or Kiriatharba (that is, Hebron) where Abraham and Isaac had lived. 28 After living a hundred and eighty years 29 Isaac breathed his last and was gathered to his people at a good old age. His sons Esau and Jacob buried him.

CYCLE OF JOSEPH

The history of Joseph is one of the most beautiful and known of the whole Old Testament. It is doubtful that it is historical, or even a legend. It seems rather a historical novel with a moralizing intention.

The message is heartbreaking: the fidelity of God that never fails the just person who remains faithful. In spite of all the calamities, God is there and the patience and fidelity of man will come back as blessing for him and his brothers.

This issue about the misfortunes of the just will occur many times, but not always with a "happy ending." The deepest expression of misfortunes will be found in the Book of Job.

Joseph's dreams

37 1 Jacob lived in the land where his father had settled, in the land of Canaan. 2 This is the history of Jacob's family.

2 Joseph, a young man of seventeen, was shepherding the flock with his brothers, the sons of Bilhah and the sons of Zilpah, his father's wives. Joseph informed his father of the bad reputation they had. 3 Now Israel loved Joseph more than any of his other children, for he was the son of his old age and he had a coat with long sleeves made for him. 4 His brothers who saw that their father loved him more than he loved them, hated him and could no longer speak to him in a friendly way.

5 若瑟做了一個夢。他把夢境告訴給哥哥們，卻使他們更惱恨他。
6 若瑟說：
“請聽我的夢。7 我夢見我們正在田園捆麥子。我的麥捆站了起來，而你們的麥捆圍繞著我的麥捆，向我的麥捆行禮致意。”
8 哥哥們就對他說：
“難道你想治理我們？做我們的王嗎？”
他們因為若瑟的夢和他的話，更加忌恨討厭若瑟。
9 若瑟又做了另一個夢：
“我看到太陽、月亮和十一顆星星向我行禮。”
10 他把這夢告訴父親和哥哥們，他父親斥責他說：
“你做的是什麼夢呀？難道我們大家，包括我自己、你母親和你哥哥們都要向你鞠躬跪拜嗎？”
11 他的哥哥們忌妒他，父親卻將他的話記在心中。
若瑟被哥哥們出賣
12 有一次，他的哥哥們到舍根去牧放父親的羊群，13 以色列對若瑟說：
“你哥哥們正在舍根放羊。來，我要派你到他們那兒去。”
若瑟回答：
“我在這兒。”
14 他父親說：
“你去看看兄長們和羊群是否平安無恙，然後回來向我報告。”
以色列打發若瑟從赫貝龍山谷出發，到舍根去。
15 他在田間迷了路，有個人碰見他，問他：
“你在找什麼？”16 他說：
“我在找我的哥哥們，請告訴我；他們在哪里牧羊。”
17 這人說：“他們已經離開這兒了，我聽說他們要到多堂去！”
於是若瑟又繼續找哥哥們，在多堂找到了他們。
18 他們老遠就看到了他，趁他走近之前，大家就計劃謀殺他。
19 他們互相說道：
“那個做夢高手來了。20 這正是好時候，我們殺了他，把他丟到井中。然後我們說是野獸把他吃掉了。看看他的夢還有什麼用！”
21 勒烏本聽到了，就想辦法從他們手中救他，22 他說：
“我們不要殺他，否則會負血債！只把他丟進曠野的井中，不要傷害他。”
他這樣說，是想從他們手中救若瑟的命，然後把他送還給父親。

⁵Joseph had a dream which, when he told it to his brothers, made them hate him the more:

⁶—Listen to the dream I had. ⁷We were binding sheaves in the field when my sheaf rose and stood up and your sheaves gathered round and bowed down to my sheaf.

⁸His brothers said to him:

—So you want to rule us or lord it over us!

They hated him even more because of his dreams and what he said.

⁹Joseph had another dream which he told to his brothers:

—I saw the sun, the moon and seven stars bowing down before me.

¹⁰When he told this to his father and brothers, his father rebuked him:

—What is this dream of yours? Are all of us, myself, your mother and your brothers to bow to the ground before you?

¹¹His brothers were jealous of him but his father kept in mind what he had said.

¹²His brothers had gone to pasture their father's flock at Shechem, ¹³and Israel said to Joseph:

—Your brothers are pasturing the flock at Shechem; come along, I'll send you to them.

Joseph replied:

—Here I am.

¹⁴Then his father said:

—Go and see if all is well with your brothers and with the flock; then come back and tell me.

Jacob sent him from the valley of Hebron and Joseph arrived at Shechem.

¹⁸They saw him in the distance and before he reached them, they plotted to kill him. ¹⁹They said to one another:

—Here comes the specialist in dreams! ²⁰Now's the time! Let's kill him and throw him into a well. We'll say a wild animal devoured him. Then we'll see what his dreams were all about!

²¹But Reuben heard this and tried to save him from their hands ²²saying:

—Let us not kill him; shed no blood! Throw him in this well in the wilderness, but do him no violence.

This he said to save him from them and take him back to his father.

若瑟被弟兄出賣

23 若瑟來到近前，他們就撕下他身上穿的那件彩色長袖衣袍，24 抓住他，把他丟到井裏。這井是空的，沒有水。25 他們坐下來吃飯時，擡頭看到從基肋阿得來的依市瑪耳商隊。他們的駱駝載著香料、香脂和劑藥，往埃及去。26 猶大對眾兄弟說：

“我們若殺自己的弟弟，手上就沾了他的血迹，究竟能得到什麼好處？27 不如把他賣給依市瑪耳人，我們不該殺他，因為他到底是我們的弟弟，我們的血親！”

兄弟們同意了。

28 所以，當米德楊的商人經過時，他們把若瑟從井里拉上來，以二十個錢幣賣給了米德楊人，這些商人就把若瑟帶到埃及去了。29 勒烏本回到井邊，發現若瑟已不在裏面了。他撒裂自己的衣服，30 回到他兄弟那兒，說：

“這孩子不見了，我們怎麼辦？”

31 他們拿起若瑟的衣服，宰殺一隻公羊，把若瑟的衣服浸在羊血裏。32 再派人把那彩色的長袖衣袍送到父親那裏，說：

“這是我們找到的東西，你看看是不是你兒子的衣服？”

33 雅各伯認出了這東西，就說：

“這是我兒子的外衣。若瑟遭到野獸的攻擊，已被野獸撕成碎片了。”

34 雅各伯就撕裂他自己的外衣，穿上粗麻衣，哀悼兒子，服喪好長一段日子。35 雖然他的兒子、女兒都來安慰他，他卻不肯接受，他說：

“我要悲痛地下到陰間，到我兒子那裏。”

他為失去若瑟如此悲痛不已。

36 米德楊人後來在埃及把若瑟賣給了法老的官員，侍衛長普提法爾。

若瑟成爲埃及長老的僕役

39 1 若瑟被人帶到埃及。有個埃及人普提法爾，是法老的官員，兼侍衛長。他從帶若瑟來的依市瑪耳人手中，買下若瑟。

2 若瑟住在他的埃及主人家中，因著雅威的祝福，他凡事順利。3 這埃及人注意到天主與若瑟同在，使他事事如意。4 爲此，主人深深喜歡並信任若瑟，要他看管自己家中的大小事務及全部財產。5 從那時開

Joseph sold by his brothers

²³So as soon as Joseph arrived, they stripped him of his long-sleeved coat that he wore ²⁴and then took him and threw him in the well. Now the well was empty, without water. ²⁵They were sitting for a meal when they looked up and saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead, their camels laden with spices, balm and myrrh, which they were taking down to Egypt. ²⁶Judah then said to his brothers:

—What do we gain by killing our brother and hiding his blood? ²⁷Come! We'll sell him to the Ishmaelites and not lay our hands on him, for he is our brother and our own flesh!”

His brothers agreed to this.

²⁸So when the Midianite merchants came along they pulled Joseph up and lifted him out of the well. For twenty pieces of silver they sold Joseph to the Midianites, who took him with them to Egypt. ²⁹When Reuben went back to the well, Joseph was no longer there. He tore his clothes ³⁰and returned to his brothers and said:

—The boy has disappeared, and what am I to do?

³¹They then took Joseph's coat, killed a goat and dipped the coat in its blood. ³²They sent the long-sleeved coat and had it taken to their father, saying:

—This we have found; see if it is your son's coat or not.

³³He recognized it and said:

—It is my son's coat. Joseph has been attacked by a wild animal and torn to pieces.

³⁴Jacob then tore his garments, put on sackcloth and mourned his son for a long time. ³⁵All his sons and daughters came to comfort him but he refused to be consoled saying:

—No, I shall go down to the land of Shadows, mourning for my son.

Thus his father wept for him.

³⁶Meanwhile the Midianites sold Joseph in Egypt to Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh and the commander of the guard.

Joseph, steward of Potiphar

39¹Now Joseph was taken down to Egypt, and Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, commander of the guard, an Egyptian, bought him from the Ishmaelites who had brought him there.

²Yahweh blessed Joseph while he lived in the house of his master, the Egyptian, and everything went right for him. ³The Egyptian could see that God was with him and everything worked well for him. ⁴So Joseph pleased his master

始，雅威因著若瑟之故而祝福這家埃及人，使得埃及人擁有一切，連同他的家庭和土地都蒙受祝福。6 埃及人把他所有的財產都交給若瑟管理，在若瑟悉心安排下，埃及主人除了自己吃喝外，其他什麼也不用操心了。若瑟是個容貌俊美，體態健壯的青年男子。

受誘惑、被毀謗並下入監獄

7 不久，他主人的妻子就向他頻送秋波，對他說：
“請和我同床吧。”

8 但若瑟拒絕了，對她說：

“我現在管理這家，主人就不用過問家中諸事，他把自己的全部產權都交到我手裏。

9 我實際上比他更像這家中的主人，他給我權力管理所有的事，除你之外。因為你是他的妻子。我怎能做這種醜事而得罪天主呢？”

10 雖然她每天都挑逗若瑟，但若瑟仍然不理睬她。

11 有一天，若瑟進屋裏去辦事，那時正巧其他僕人都不在。12 普提法爾的妻子就抓住若瑟的外衣，說：“和我上床去。”若瑟丟下她手中的外衣，跑到外面去了。

13 這女人一見若瑟把自己的外衣舍在手中，14 就大叫僕人來，對他們說：

“看，這個希伯來人來到我們這裏，竟敢調戲我。他剛才來要與我同床，所以我才大叫，15 他聽見我大叫，就留下衣服，逃出這房間。”

16 她將若瑟的衣服保留起來，直到主人回來。17 對他如此說：

“你的希伯來奴僕竟敢調戲我，18 我高聲大叫，他才趕快逃走，卻把他的外衣留在我的手上了。”

19 若瑟的主人聽到他妻子的話：

“你的僕人竟這樣待我。”就勃然大怒，20 把若瑟抓起來，關到皇宮的監獄中，這監獄囚禁著觸怒國王的犯人。

21 雖然若瑟囚在監獄中，但雅威與他同在，仁慈地幫助他，使得獄長喜歡他。22 獄長要他管理所有的犯人，負責獄中大小事務。23 凡若瑟管理的事情，獄長都不加干涉，因為雅威與若瑟同在，使他事事成功。

40 1 事隔不久，有個替埃及法老倒酒的酒保，和廚師一同冒犯了他們的主人。2 法老對這兩位臣仆發怒，3 把他們囚禁在衛隊長

who made him overseer of his house and of all that he owned,⁵ and from that time God blessed the Egyptian's house because of Joseph; he blessed all that the Egyptian owned, his household and his land.⁶ The Egyptian left all he had to the care of Joseph and, with Joseph fully in charge, he concerned himself with nothing except the food that he ate. Joseph was a handsome man and well-built.

Temptation, calumny and jail

⁷After some time his master's wife kept noticing him and said:
—Sleep with me.

⁸But he refused and said to her:

⁹—How can I do such an evil thing and sin against God?

¹⁰Although day after day she spoke to Joseph, he would not agree to sleep with her or give himself to her.

¹¹It happened that one day, when he entered the house to attend to his duties, none of the servants were in the house. ¹²Then Potiphar's wife caught hold of Joseph by his cloak. But Joseph left his cloak in her hands and ran out of the house.

¹³As soon as he had run out of the house, ¹⁴she called her servants and said:

—Look, a Hebrew has been brought here to make fun of us; he came here to lie with me, so I screamed ¹⁵and he left his cloak with me and ran out of the house.

¹⁶Then she kept the cloak by her until the master came home. ¹⁷She then told her story

¹⁹When his master heard what his wife told him,

“This is how your servant treated me,” he blazed with anger. ²⁰He took Joseph and put him in the Royal Prison where the king's prisoners were kept.

But while Joseph was in prison ²¹Yahweh was with him and showed him kindness so that he was well-liked by the warden of the prison.

40 ¹Some time after this, it happened that the cupbearer of the king of Egypt, who prepared the drinks for Pharaoh, and his chief baker offended their

的牢房中，也就是若瑟被囚的地方。4 衛隊長指派若瑟照應他們生活所需，他們在獄中呆了一段時間。

20 果然三天後，恰逢法老生日，他舉行宴會招待群臣，他想到了酒保和廚師。21 就讓酒保回到原來的職位上，置酒杯于法老手中，22 但是廚師卻被吊死了，正如若瑟給他們解釋的那樣。23 但這酒保卻不記得若瑟，竟把他完全忘了。

法郎的夢

41 1 兩年過去，一天法老夢見自己站在尼羅河邊，2 看見七隻肥壯的母牛，從尼羅河上來，吃岸邊的蘆葦草。3 隨後，另有七隻枯瘦的母牛，站在這些肥壯的母牛身邊。4 七隻枯瘦的母牛竟吞食了那七隻肥壯的母牛。法老被驚醒了。

5 他再度睡去，又做了一個夢。他夢見一個麥莖上，長出七枝成熟飽滿的麥穗。6 然後，又長出七枝瘦小，而且被東風吹枯的麥穗。7 但這七隻瘦小的麥穗竟把那肥美的麥穗吞了下去。法老驚醒了，原來是一場夢。

8 到了早上，他覺得心煩意亂，就把埃及的所有術士和賢人都請來，給他們講了自己的夢，但無人能解。9 這時酒保對法老說：

“這讓我想起自己做錯了一件事。10 有一次法老你對僕人發怒，把我囚禁在衛隊長的牢房裏，與我同囚的還有廚師。11 有一天晚上，我們各做了一個夢，每個人的夢各有其意。12 有個年輕的希伯來人，同我們在一起，是衛隊長的僕人。我們將夢講給他，他就釋夢，兩個夢各有不同的含義。13 他的解釋後來真的都實現了。我的確恢復了職位，而廚師被吊死了。”

lord. ²Pharaoh was angry with his two officers ³and put them in custody in the house of the captain of the guard, in the prison where Joseph was kept. ⁴So the captain of the guard appointed Joseph to attend to their needs, for they were under arrest for some time.

²⁰It so happened that on the third day, Pharaoh's birthday, he made a feast for all his officers and remembered the chief cupbearer and the chief baker. ²¹The cupbearer was restored to his office and placed the cup in Pharaoh's hand; ²²but the chief baker was hanged, as Joseph had interpreted to them. ²³Yet the chief cupbearer did not remember Joseph, but forgot him.

The dreams of Pharaoh

41 ¹After two whole years Pharaoh dreamed that he was standing by the Nile ²when seven cows, sleek and fat, were coming up from the Nile and beginning to feed among the rushes. ³Behind them came seven other cows, lean and scraggy that stood beside the cows already there. ⁴These devoured the sleek and fat cows. Then Pharaoh awoke.

⁵He fell asleep again and had a second dream. He saw growing on one stalk seven ears of corn that were full and ripe. ⁶And after these, there sprouted seven more ears of corn that were small and scorched by the east wind. ⁷Now the small ears of corn swallowed the plump and ripe ones. Then Pharaoh awoke.

⁸In the morning he was uneasy and called all the magicians and wise men in Egypt. He told his dreams to them but not one among them was able to interpret his dreams. ⁹Then the chief cupbearer spoke to Pharaoh:

—This reminds me of my wrongs. ¹⁰Pharaoh was angry with his servants and had me put in custody in the house of the captain of the guard and with me the chief baker. ¹¹Once on the same night we both had a dream, each with its own meaning. ¹²With us was a young Hebrew, a servant of the captain of the guard. When we told him our dreams he interpreted them giving to each one its own meaning. ¹³What he interpreted for us happened. I was restored to my office and the chief baker was hanged.

若瑟解夢

14 法老立刻叫人把若瑟帶來。他們趕快把他從獄中提出來，幫他刮臉、換衣服，把他帶到法老面前。

15 法老對他說：

“我做了一個夢，無人能解這夢。我聽見人說你聽到夢，就能解釋。”

16 若瑟回答：

“不是我，是天主會給法老一個美好的解釋。”

17 法老便將他的夢境講了出來。

“我站在尼羅河邊，¹⁸ 看見七隻肥美的母牛從河上來，吃蘆葦叢中的草。¹⁹ 另外又有七隻母牛，隨後上來，那是七隻瘦弱的母牛。我在整個埃及從來沒有見過這麼醜陋的母牛。²⁰ 然而這又瘦又醜的母牛竟把那七隻肥美的母牛吞了下去。²¹ 吃了後，這七隻瘦牛好像未曾吞吃過東西一般，因為它們還是和從前一樣又瘦又醜。我就醒了。

²² 我又夢見一根麥莖上長出七支成熟飽滿的麥穗，²³ 隨後又長出七枝堅硬、瘦小，而且被東風吹幹的麥穗。²⁴ 但枯萎的麥穗竟然吞吃了好的麥穗。我把這夢講給術士，但是沒有人能解釋它。”

25 若瑟說：

“法老做的兩個夢其實是同一個意義。天主已將他的計劃顯示給法老了。²⁶ 這七隻肥牛和七枝好的麥穗表示七年的時間。其實都是一個夢！²⁷ 隨後上來七隻瘦牛，表示七年，就像七枝被東風吹幹的麥穗，表示七年饑荒一樣。²⁸ 正如我對法老說的：天主正在向你顯示他的計劃。²⁹ 在全埃及將有七年的豐年，³⁰ 但隨後將有七年饑荒。人們會忘記豐年是什麼樣了，饑饉將吞噬大地。³¹ 人們將不再記得豐收的時候，因為隨之而來的饑荒將是非常嚴重的。

³² 這個夢重復出現兩次，是因為天主堅決要實行他的計劃。³³ 所以，現在法老應選一位賢明有智慧的人，派他治理整個埃及。³⁴ 派人督促埃及各地方，在豐收的七年裏，徵收地方出產的五分之一的糧食。³⁵ 官吏必須搜集未來豐年的糧食，在法老的權下，把麥子貯存在城中，收藏好，³⁶ 這糧食將應付那將在埃及出現的饑荒，人們就不會餓死。”

Joseph interprets the dreams

¹⁴Pharaoh then had Joseph summoned. They took him quickly from the prison, shaved him, changed his clothes and he presented himself to Pharaoh.

¹⁵Then Pharaoh addressed him:

—I have had a dream which no one can explain; now I have heard that when you hear a dream you are able to interpret it.

¹⁶Joseph replied:

—It's not I but God who will give Pharaoh a favorable answer.

¹⁷Pharaoh then began telling his dream.

—I was beside the Nile ¹⁸when seven fine cows, sleek and fat, came up from the river and began to feed in the rushes. ¹⁹Then seven other cows came up behind them. These were poor, scraggy and lean. I had never seen any so ugly in all the land of Egypt. ²⁰The thin, gaunt cows ate up the seven fat cows, ²¹but after eating them, it was as if they had not eaten them at all because they remained as lean and scraggy as they were before. And then I woke.

²²I also saw in my dream seven ears of corn growing on one stalk, full and ripe. ²³Then, after them, there sprouted seven ears of corn that were hard and small and withered by the east wind. ²⁴The withered ears of corn swallowed the good ears. I told this to the magicians but none of them could explain its meaning.

²⁵Then Joseph said:

—Pharaoh's dream is one and the same. Yahweh has just revealed to Pharaoh what he will do. ²⁶The seven fat cows are seven years and the seven good ears as well. It's one dream! ²⁷The seven lean cows coming after them are seven years as are the seven withered ears of corn scorched by the east wind, and they are seven years of famine. ²⁸As I said to Pharaoh, God is revealing to him what he is about to do. ²⁹There will be seven years of plenty throughout the land of Egypt, ³⁰but they will be followed by seven years of famine. Then the time of abundance will be forgotten and famine will exhaust the land. ³¹So severe will the famine be that no one will remember the time of plenty.

³²If the dream has been repeated twice for Pharaoh it is because God has so determined and will soon make it happen. ³³Now it is for Pharaoh to choose an intelligent and wise man and set him over the land of Egypt. ³⁴Pharaoh could have supervisors in the land and could levy a tax of one fifth of the produce of the land during the seven years of plenty. ³⁵They must gather all the food of these productive years that are coming and, by the authority of Pharaoh, store grain for food in the towns and keep it. ³⁶This food will be a reserve for the seven years of famine coming to the land of Egypt so that the people will not die of hunger.

若瑟成爲埃及的宰相

37 法老和他的群臣都十分滿意若瑟的主張。法老對他說：

38 “我們到哪里去找這樣一位擁有天主神能的人？”

39 法老對若瑟說：

“既然天主把這些事情預先告知了你，恐怕再也沒有人能如你一樣的賢能。40 你將掌管我的宮廷，我的人民要聽從你的命令。你只在我一人之下，萬人之上，惟有我自己的權位比你大。”

41 法老對若瑟說：“看，我要你掌管全埃及，”42 就從自己手上取下列印的戒指，戴在若瑟的手上。又給若瑟穿細麻長袍，在若瑟頸上戴金鏈。43 他叫若瑟坐他的副車，人們在他面前喊著：“跪下行禮。”若瑟就這樣掌管了全埃及地的事務。

44 法老對若瑟說：“我是法老！沒有你的同意，全埃及人都不能輕易行動。”45 法老給若瑟取名匝斐納特帕乃亞，又將翁城的司祭頗提斐辣的女兒阿斯納特嫁給他。若瑟便到埃及各地去巡察。

46 若瑟被召叫到埃及法老面前時，已經三十歲了。他辭別法老，到全埃及地去巡視。

47 在富裕的七年中，大地豐收。48 若瑟徵收了在那七年豐收所出產的糧食，把糧食儲放在各城中；把從城郊田野運來的糧食，也囤積在各城裏。49 若瑟積存了大量的麥子，真像海邊沙粒一樣，多得無法勝數。饑荒來臨之前，50 阿絲納特生了兩個兒子。若瑟稱長子爲默納協，51 因爲他說：“天主使我忘記一切苦難和我父親的老家。”給次子起名爲厄弗辣因，52 因爲他說：“天主在我受苦的地方，使我有子息。”

53 埃及地的七個豐年一過，54 隨之而來的是七個荒年，正如若瑟曾預言的。各地都發生饑荒，唯有埃及國還有糧食。55 等到埃及也開始鬧饑荒時，人們就到法老面前要糧食。於是法老通告所有的埃及人說：

“到若瑟那兒去，按照他說的去。做。”饑荒蔓延至全國各地，若瑟就命人打開所有的糧倉，56 把糧食賣給埃及人，因爲這地方的饑荒實在非常嚴重。57 埃及之外各地都大鬧饑荒，從其他國家來的人都向若瑟買糧食。

Joseph, the head minister

37 The proposal of Joseph pleased Pharaoh and his ministers, and Pharaoh asked them:

38—Where shall we find such a man possessed with the spirit of God?

39 And to Joseph he said:

40—You shall be over my house, and all my people will obey your orders.

46 Joseph was thirty years old when he was summoned to the presence of Pharaoh, King of Egypt. After taking his leave of Pharaoh he journeyed through the entire land of Egypt.

47 During the seven years of plenty the land produced abundantly. 48 So Joseph gathered up all the food that was produced during these years, storing in each town the food from the fields around it. 49 Joseph stored huge quantities of wheat, like the sand from the sea, so much that they lost count of the amount.

53 When the seven years of plenty throughout the land of Egypt came to an end, 54 the seven years of famine began as Joseph had foretold. There was famine in all the countries but in every part of Egypt there was bread. 55 When the land of Egypt began to suffer from the famine, the people came to Pharaoh for bread. But Pharaoh told all the Egyptians:

—Go to Joseph and do as he tells you.

57 As the famine had worsened throughout the whole world, people came from other countries to buy grain from Joseph.

若瑟首次接見弟兄

42 1 雅各伯知道埃及還有糧食，便對他的兒子們說：

“你們為什麼還站著互相觀望？²我聽說埃及有谷麥，你們往埃及去買一些麥子，這樣我們才能活下去，不然就都餓死了。”

³若瑟的十個哥哥就往埃及去買糧穀。⁴雅各伯沒有派若瑟的弟弟本雅明去，因為他說：“不要讓本雅明遭到什麼意外。”

⁵以色列的兒子們隨著人群一齊去買糧穀，因為迦南也在鬧饑荒。⁶那時若瑟是埃及地方的宰相，他有權下令把糧谷賣給百姓。他的哥哥們來到這裏，都俯首至地向他行禮。⁷若瑟認出了自己的哥哥們，卻沒讓他們發覺。反而嚴厲地對他們說：

“你們從哪兒來？”他們回答：

“我們從迦南地來買谷麥，爲了充饑。”

⁸若瑟已經認出自己的哥哥們，但是他們卻沒有認出若瑟。⁹若瑟還記得他做過的有關自己哥哥們的夢。於是，他說：

“你們是奸細，你們來，是爲了打探這裏的虛實。”

¹⁰他們著急地回答說：

“不，我的大人，你的僕人們是來買谷麥作口糧的。¹¹我們是一個父親的孩子，我們是誠實的人。我們絕對不是奸細。”

¹²若瑟又說：

“不，你們來的確是爲了打探這裏的虛實。”

¹³他們齊聲回答：

“你的僕人們本是十二位兄弟，最小的正和我們的父親在一起，另外一個已經不在了。”

¹⁴但若瑟仍堅持著說：

“我說的沒錯，你們就是奸細！¹⁵事實有待證實。我以法老的性命發誓，你們不准離開這裏，除非你最小的弟弟也來到這裏。¹⁶你們中間一人快去把弟弟帶來，回來之前，其他的人要留在獄中，對證你們說的是否是實話。如果不是真的，我指著法老的性命起誓，你們必是奸細。”

¹⁷於是他把他們關了三天。

¹⁸到了第三天，若瑟對他們說：

“我會幫你們救自己，因為我是敬畏天主的人。¹⁹如果你們講的是實話，就讓其中一個兄弟留在牢房中，其餘的人帶糧谷回去救家人的饑

Joseph's brothers: First encounter

42 ¹When Jacob heard there was wheat in Egypt he said to his sons:

—Why do you stand looking at one another? ²I've heard there is grain in Egypt, so go down and buy some for us so that we may stay alive and not die!

³Joseph's brothers—ten of them—went down to Egypt to buy wheat. ⁷Joseph recognized his brothers but did not make himself known and, instead, said harshly to them:

—Where do you come from?

And they answered:

—We come from the land of Canaan to buy grain for food.

⁸Joseph recognized his brothers but they did not recognize him. ⁹And he remembered the dreams he once had concerning them. He told them:

—You are spies, and it is to discover the weak points of the land that you have come.

¹⁰They said:

—No, my lord, your servants have come to buy grain for food. ¹¹We are all sons of the same man. We are honest men; your servants are not spies.

¹²Joseph replied:

—No, it is to find out the weak points of the country that you have come.

¹³They said:

—Your servants are twelve brothers, the sons of one man in the land of Canaan; the youngest is today with our father and the other is no more.

¹⁴But Joseph insisted:

—It's just as I said, you are spies! ¹⁵And this will be proved. By the life of Pharaoh you will not leave this place unless your youngest brother comes here. ¹⁶One of you is to go and fetch your brother. The others will be imprisoned while I verify whether you are telling the truth. If not, then as true as Pharaoh lives, you are spies.

¹⁷And so he put them all in prison for three days.

¹⁸On the third day Joseph said to them:

—I will help you to save yourselves, for I am a man who fears God. ¹⁹If you are sincere, let one of your brothers remain prisoner in the house of the guard

荒。20 然後把最小的弟弟帶回來，證明你們所說的是實話，免於一死。”

他們按照若瑟的命令去做了，21 互相說道：

“唉！我們必須贖回所犯下的罪，因為我們那樣對待自己的弟弟，他向我們求情，我們並沒有答應他，所以我們才遭到這個苦難。”

22 勒烏本回答他們：

“我不是警告過你們，不要傷害那孩子嗎？可是你們不肯聽，現在我們要為他的血償付出代價。”

23 他們並不知道若瑟聽得懂，因為有一個翻譯來跟他們說話。

24 若瑟就轉身退出去，暗自痛哭流涕。他又回來跟他們說話，當著他們的面，令人把西默盎捆綁下獄。

回到加南

25 若瑟命人把他們的布袋裝滿乾糧，又把他們所付的錢放回每人的布袋中，還為他們預備行程中所需的口糧。這些事處理完畢，26 他們把糧穀馱在驢背上，動身出發了。

27 當晚憩在客棧中，他們中的一個人，打開布袋喂驢子時，看見錢還留在口袋裏，就說：

“28 我的錢退回來了，仍在我的布袋裏。” 他們提心吊膽，戰戰兢兢地彼此說：

“天主要對我們做什麼啊？”

29 他們回到了迦南地，回到父親雅各伯那裏，把所發生的事告訴了他：

30 “那地方的主人嚴厲地對我們說話，把我們當做奸細。

31 不過我們說：

‘我們是誠實的人，不是奸細。32 我們是同一個父親所生的十二個兄弟，其中一個不在了，最小的和父親留在迦南地。’

33 那地方的宰相說：‘我這樣做，是要試看你們是否誠實。你們要把一個兄弟留在這裏，把糧穀帶回去解救家人，免于饑荒。34 再把最小的弟弟帶來，好讓我明白你們不是奸細，是誠實的人，我就會釋放你們的弟弟，你們就可在這地方自由行動。’ ”

where you now are, and the rest of you take the grain to save your families from famine. 20 Then you will bring back your youngest brother, so the truth of what you say will be proved and your lives spared.

They did as they were ordered 21 and said among themselves:

—Alas! We are guilty because of the way we treated our brother when he pleaded with us for mercy, but we didn't listen. That is why this trouble has come upon us.

22 Reuben answered them:

—Didn't I tell you not to sin against the boy. But you did not listen and now we are brought to account for his blood.

23 Now they did not know that Joseph understood them as there was an interpreter between them.

24 As for Joseph, he withdrew and wept. When he came back, he spoke to them and took Simeon and had him bound and put in prison while they looked on.

Return to Canaan

25 Joseph ordered their sacks to be filled with wheat and their money replaced in the sack of each one and provisions be given them for the journey. All this was done; 26 they loaded the grain on their donkeys and set off.

27 But in the evening one of them emptied his sack to feed his donkey at the lodging place, and he saw his money at the mouth of the sack, so he said:

28—My money has been put back: here it is in my sack! Their hearts failed them and they trembled and turned to each other and said:

—What is this that God has done to us!

29 When they came back to Jacob in the land of Canaan, they told him about all their adventures:

30—The man who is governor of the country spoke harshly to us and treated us as spies.

31 But we said:

—We are honest men, not spies. 32 We were twelve brothers, sons of the same father; one is no more and the youngest is with our father in the land of Canaan.

33 Then the man who is lord of the land said: By this I will know if you are honest. Leave one of your brothers here; take grain to save your families from the famine and go. 34 Bring back your youngest brother and let me see you are not spies but honest men. Then I shall release your brother and you can trade in the land.

35 他們倒空自己的口袋，每人都發現他的錢包和錢依舊在口袋中。他們看事情如此，就害怕起來。他們的父親也害怕了。36 雅各伯對他們說：

“你們總是使我失去兒子。若瑟已經走了，西默盎也不在了，現在你們又要帶走本雅明。這些不幸都落在我頭上。”

37 勒烏本對他父親說：

“如果我不帶他回家，你就拿我的兩個兒子抵命。把本雅明交給我，我會使他平安地回到你身邊。”

38 但是雅各伯說：

“我兒子不能跟你走，他哥哥已經死了，現在只剩下他一人。如果他半路上有什麼意外，那我這白髮老人，就該在憂苦中下陰間地府了”。

若瑟第二次接見弟兄

43 1 迦南地饑荒仍然很嚴重，2 他們吃完了從埃及買回來的糧食後，父親對他們說：

“再往埃及去吧，買一點糧食回來。”

3 但是猶大對他說：

“那人已嚴正地警告過我們，要弟弟和我們一起去。4 如果你讓弟弟和我們一起去，我們就去埃及給你買糧食，5 如果你不讓他去，我們就不敢去埃及。因為這人說：如果你們的弟弟沒有和你們一起來，你們就不要來見我的面。”

6 以色列說：

“你們為什麼要害我，讓那人知道你們還有一個弟弟？”

7 他們回答：

“那人仔細地詢問有關我們和家庭的事，他問：‘你們的父親還活著嗎？你們還有其他的兄弟嗎？’ 我們就答了這些問題。哪里知道他會說：‘把你們的弟弟帶來？’”

8 猶大對他父親以色列說：

“讓這孩子跟著我吧！好讓我們啓程去埃及，這樣，你、我們還有我們的孩子才能活下去，不至於餓死。9 我會保證他的安全。如果我不能帶他回來，把他還給你，我願終身受譴責。10 假使沒有耽誤這麼久，我們恐怕早已回來兩次了。”

³⁵Now, when they emptied their sacks, each one found his money bag in his sack. When they saw this, they were afraid and their father as well. ³⁶Jacob their father said to them:

—You are taking my children from me. Joseph has gone; Simeon has gone and now you are taking Benjamin. I have all this to bear!

³⁷Then Reuben said to his father:

—You may have the lives of my two sons if I do not bring him back to you. Entrust him to me and I shall see that he comes back.

³⁸But Jacob said:

—My son will not go with you, for his brother is dead and he alone is left. If he were to meet with some misfortune on the way, you would send my gray head to the land of Shadows in sorrow.

Second encounter

43 ¹The lack of food was severe in the land, ²and when they had eaten the grain they brought from Egypt, their father said to them:

—Go down again and buy us a little food.

³But Judah said to him:

—The man solemnly warned us that our brother had to come with us. ⁴If you send our brother with us, we will go down and buy food for you; ⁵but if you don't send him, we will not go, for the man said: You will not be admitted to my presence if your brother is not with you.

⁶Israel then said:

—Why did you bring this misery on me by letting the man know you have another brother?

⁷They replied:

—The man questioned us carefully about ourselves and our kinsfolk saying: ‘Is your father still alive? Have you another brother?’ And so we answered these questions. Could we have known that he would tell us to bring our brother?

⁸Judah then said to Israel his father:

—Send the boy with me. Let us go so that we, you and our children may live and not die. ⁹I will guarantee his safety. If I do not bring him back and set him here before you, I will bear the blame forever. ¹⁰If we hadn't delayed for so long we could have been there and back twice over.

11 他們的父親以色列對他們說：

“如果事情必須如此，你們就這樣做：帶些本地最好的土產放在袋中；一些香液、蜂蜜、乳香、香脂、沒藥、榧子和杏仁，當做禮物送給那人。12 再帶雙倍的錢，把放在你們袋中的錢歸還給那人，他可能是弄錯了。13 帶著你弟弟回到那人身邊去。14 願全能的天主使你們在那人面前蒙恩，准許你們帶回自己的弟弟和本雅明。至於我，如果我不得不失去孩子，就讓我失去吧！”

15 這些人就拿了禮物和雙倍的錢，帶著本雅明往埃及去了。他們去見若瑟。16 若瑟看到他們和本雅明一塊兒來了，就對他的總管家說：

“把這些人帶到我家去。你去宰殺牲畜，準備筵席，因為我要和這些人一起吃飯。”

17 管家遵照若瑟的話去做，把這一夥人帶到若瑟的家中。18 他們一進若瑟的家，心中就害怕起來。互相說道：

“就是因為上次有人把錢放回我們的袋中，所以我們被帶到這裏。有人要加害我們，或者強制我們去做奴隸，搶走我們的驢子。”

19 於是他們走近若瑟的管家，在房門口對他說：

“20 先生，承蒙您的允許，為買糧食已經來過一次，21 可是我們晚上回到客棧休息時，打開袋子一看，才發現各人的錢仍在口袋裏，我們現在把這錢帶回來了，22 我們不知道是誰把這錢放在我們的口袋裏的，另外我們還帶了錢再買些食糧。”

23 這管家說：

“放心，不要害怕。你的天主，你們祖先的天主，在你們裝糧穀的口袋中放了財寶。你們的錢我已經全部一文不差的收過了。”

然後他把西默盎帶出來，交給他們。24 這管家把他們帶到若瑟的家中，先拿水給他們洗腳，又拿糧草喂他們的驢子。25 他們準備好禮物，等著若瑟中午回來，因為聽說他們要在這家中吃午飯。

26 若瑟回到家時，他們就把帶來的禮物獻給他，俯首至地向他行禮。27 若瑟問候他們，說：

“你們的父親好嗎？就是你們說的老人家，他還健在嗎？”

28 他們回答：

“大人，我們的父親很好，還健在。29 他擡頭看他弟弟，就是與他同一母親的弟弟本雅明，說：

11 Israel their father said to them:

—If it must be so, then do this: take some choice products of the land in your bags and a gift for the man—some balm, a little honey, gum, myrrh, pistachio nuts and almonds. 12 Take double the money with you and you will repay what was put in your sacks; it may have been a mistake. 13 Take your brother and go back to the man. 14 May God Almighty grant you mercy in his presence, so that he will allow you to bring back your other brother and Benjamin. As for myself if I am bereaved of my children, then bereaved I shall have to be.

15 Taking Benjamin, they set off and went down to Egypt and were admitted to the presence of Joseph. 16 When Joseph saw that Benjamin was with them, he said to his steward:

—Bring these men to my house. Have an animal slaughtered and a meal prepared, for these men will eat with me at noon.

17 The steward did as Joseph directed and brought the men to Joseph's house. 18 They were afraid and said to each other:

—It's because of the money that was placed in our sacks the last time, that we are brought in. He wants to attack and overpower us and have us as slaves and take our donkeys.

19 So they approached Joseph's steward and spoke to him at the door of the house:

20—Oh my Lord, we came down here the first time to buy food, 21 and when we reached a lodging place and opened our sacks, we found in the mouth of the sacks each one's money to the full weight. We have brought it back with us 22 as well as additional money to buy food. We don't know who put the money in our sacks.

23 The steward said:

—Be at peace! Don't be afraid. Your God, the God of your father, put a treasure in your grain sacks. Your money reached me safely.

He then brought Simeon out to them. 24 The steward took them into Joseph's house, gave them water to wash their feet and fodder for their donkeys. 25 They prepared their present and waited for Joseph's arrival at midday, for they heard they were to dine there.

26 When Joseph came into the house, they offered him the gift they had with them and bowed to the ground before him. 27 He asked them how they were and said:

—Is your father well, the old man you spoke about? Is he still alive?

28 They answered:

—Your servant our father is well and is still alive. 29 He looked up and saw his brother Benjamin, the son of his own mother, and said:

“他就是你們跟我講過的小弟弟嗎？”

繼而說：

“孩子，願天主保佑你！”

30 若瑟一看見弟弟，情動欲哭，就趕快出去，到他私人的房間去哭了一陣。31 然後他洗洗臉，走出來，強忍著說：

“上菜吧！”

32 他坐一席，他的兄弟另坐一席，埃及客人也另坐一席，因為埃及人不能和希伯來人共餐，他們覺得那是恥辱。33 他的兄弟們按照年紀，從長到幼坐在若瑟的對面。他們彼此看著，驚訝不已。34 若瑟拿起盤子裏的菜分給他們，可是分給本雅明的是其他人的五倍。他們就放心地與若瑟共同進餐。

本雅明的過失

44 1 若瑟吩咐自己的管家說：

“將糧食裝滿這些人的口袋。能帶多少就帶多少。然後把他們的錢放回他們的袋子裏。2 還有，把我的銀盃和買糧谷的錢，放在年紀最小的那人口袋中。”管家按若瑟的指示去做了。

3 第二天天剛亮，這十一個兄弟和他們的驢子都上路出發了。4 他們剛走出離城不遠的地方，若瑟就對他的管家說：

“趕快去追那些人。追上他們，對他們說：你們為什麼要以怨報善？5 為什麼要偷去我的銀盃？那是我主人飲酒占卜的銀盃，你們做得實在不對。”

6 管家果然追上了他們，並且重復了這些話。7 他們說：

“大人，您為什麼說這樣的話呢？我們絕不敢做那樣的事。8 我們已把上次在糧袋發現的錢，從迦南地帶來還給你！我們又怎麼會從你主人家中，偷走金銀財物呢？”9 如果你發現在我們當中誰偷了這東西，那麼這人一定該死。我們也願做大人你的奴僕。”

10 他說：“很好，就照你的誓言去做。誰被我查出偷了酒杯，誰就要做我家主人的奴僕，其餘的人可以自由地離去。”

11 於是每個人馬上把糧袋放在地上，打開袋口。12 這管家從年長的到年幼的，一一搜查。結果他發現酒杯在本雅明的袋子裏。13 他們兄弟羞辱地撕裂衣服，重新把東西放上驢背，回到城中。

—Is this your youngest brother, the one you told me about?

And he added:

—God be good to you, my son!

³⁰So deeply moved was Joseph, on seeing his brother that he wanted to cry and went out quickly and wept in his own private room. ³¹After he had washed his face and come out, controlling himself, he said:

—Serve the meal.

³²He was served separately and so were they, and the Egyptians as well, for the Egyptians cannot share a meal with Hebrews; for the Egyptians this would be a shame. ³³They were seated opposite him in the order of their ages from the eldest to the youngest and they looked at each other in astonishment. ³⁴Joseph had portions from his own dish taken to them and Benjamin's portion was five times more than that of the others. So they drank freely with him.

Benjamin guilty

44 ¹Now Joseph gave this order to his steward:

—Fill the men's sacks with as much food as they can carry and put back each man's silver in the mouth of his sack, ²and put my cup, the silver cup with the money for the grain in the sack of the youngest.

The steward did as Joseph had directed.

³As soon as it was light next morning the men were sent away with their donkeys. ⁴When they had gone but were still not far from the city, Joseph said to his steward:

—Go quickly after those men and when you have caught up with them, say this: ‘Why have you repaid good with evil? ⁵Isn't this the cup my master drinks from and uses for divination? You have done a wicked thing.’

⁶When he caught up with them he repeated these words. ⁷They said to him:

—Why does my lord speak like that? Far be it from your servants to do such a thing. ⁸The money we found in the mouths of our sacks, we brought back to you from the land of Canaan! How then could we have stolen silver or gold from your lord's house? ⁹If one of your servants is found with the object, he will die and we too will become my lord's slaves.

¹⁰—Very well then, he said, it will be as you say. The one who is found to have the cup will become my master's slave; the rest of you will go free.

¹¹Then each one quickly lowered his sack to the ground and opened it. ¹²And he searched, beginning with the eldest and ending with the youngest. And the cup was found in Benjamin's sack. ¹³Then they tore their clothes and, reloading their donkeys, they returned to the city.

若瑟第三次接見弟兄

14 猶大和弟兄們進入若瑟的家，若瑟還在家中，他們在他面前跪地行禮。15 若瑟對他們說：

“你們做了什麼事？你們難道不知道，像我這樣的人會未卜先知嗎？”

16 猶大說：

“我們能對大人說什麼呢？如何才能證明我們是無辜的呢？天主已經查出我們的罪過，我們和由他手中找出銀盃的人都願做大人你的奴僕。”

17 但是若瑟說：

“天主不讓我這麼做！只有偷藏銀盃的人才做我的奴僕。其餘的人，都可平安地回到你們父親家裏吧！”

18 猶大走上前說：

“請求你，大人，請聽我說句話。你與法老同樣權威，請不要對我們發怒。19 上一次你曾問我們：‘我們有沒有父親或弟弟？’ 20 我們對大人說：‘我們有年邁的父親，他老來生得一子。這兒子是他母親僅有的孩子了。因為這孩子的哥哥已經死了，所以我們的父親十分疼愛他。’ 21 然後你對我們說：‘把他帶來，讓我見見他。’ 22 我們告訴你，大人，這孩子是不能離開父親的，如果他有不測，我們的父親必會死去。

23 然後你告訴我們：如果我們的小弟不跟我們一起來，你就不見我們。24 我們回到家，把這事告訴了父親。25 過了不久，他要我們再來買一點糧食，26 我們又跟他提過：‘我們不能再往埃及去了，除非小弟和我們一起走；我們不能見主人，除非小弟和我們一起。’ 27 我們的父親說：‘你們知道我那位叫辣黑耳的妻子為我生了兩個孩子。28 一個已經離開，而且一定是被野獸撕成碎片了，因為我一直沒有再看到他。29 如果你們再把我幼兒帶走，要是他遭到什麼不幸，你們就等於把我這白髮老人送進陰府啦！’ 30 現在，沒有這孩子，我們怎能回到父親身邊？因為我父親非常疼愛他。如果他看到這孩子不在了，31 他會活不下去，我們就等於把這悲痛的白髮父親，送進墳墓裏啦。

32 我曾在父親面前為這孩子的安全擔保，對父親說：‘如果我不能帶他回來，我一生都會在你面前負罪’ 33 現在讓我代替小弟留在這裏做你的奴僕，讓這孩子隨他的哥哥們回家吧。34 因為沒有這孩子，我不能回到父親那裏去。請不要讓我看到這不幸的事，那對我父親來說，太悲慘了。”

Third encounter

¹⁴Joseph was still in the house when Judah and his brothers returned and they threw themselves on the ground before him. ¹⁵Joseph said to them:

—What have you done? Didn't you know that a man such as I am is able to practice divination?

¹⁶Then Judah said:

—What shall we say to my lord? How can we prove our innocence? God has uncovered your servant's guilt; we are my lord's slaves, we and the one who has been found with the cup.

¹⁷But Joseph said:

—Far be it from me to do that. Only the man found to have the cup will be my slave. As for the rest, go back in peace to your father.

¹⁸Judah then went forward and said:

—My lord, allow your servant to speak. Do not be angry with your servant, although you are equal to Pharaoh himself. ¹⁹The last time you questioned your servants saying: 'Have you a father or a brother?' ²⁰We said to my lord: 'We have an aged father who had a child in his old age. His brother is dead and he is the only one left of his mother's children. And his father loves him.' ²¹Then you said to us: 'Bring him down so that I can see him for myself.' ²²We told my lord that the boy could not leave his father, for if he did, his father would die.

²³You then told us that if our youngest brother did not come with us, we would not be admitted to your presence. ²⁴All this we said to our father on returning there. ²⁵So when he told us to come back and buy a little food, ²⁶we said: 'We cannot go down again unless our youngest brother is with us. We shall not be admitted to the lord's presence unless our brother is with us.' ²⁷Then my father said: 'You know that my wife had two children. ²⁸One went away from me and has surely been torn to pieces since I have not seen him anymore. ²⁹If you take this one from me and something happens to him you will bring my gray hair in sorrow to the grave.' ³⁰Now I can't return to my father without the boy, for my father loves him very much. If he sees that the boy is not there, ³¹he will die and we will have sent the gray hairs of our father in sorrow to the grave.

³²Now I, your servant, guaranteed the boy's safety and said to my father: 'If I do not bring him back, I will bear the blame before you all my life.' ³³So now let me take the place of the boy and stay here as slave and let the boy go with his brothers, ³⁴for I can't return to my father without the boy. Do not let me see the misery that would be too much for my father.

若瑟表明身份

45 ¹若瑟在眾人面前，再也不能抑制自己了，就下令：

“你們都退下去吧！”

只有兄弟們和他在一起。若瑟遂向他們表明了自己的身份。²他放聲大哭，連廳外的埃及人都聽見了，於是這消息傳遍整個法老的宮廷。

³若瑟對他兄弟們說：

“我就是若瑟。父親他老人家還健在嗎？”

他的兄弟們一聽這話，都嚇呆了。

⁴若瑟接著又說：

“靠過來一點！”

他們走近些。若瑟說：

“我就是你們的弟弟若瑟，那個被你們賣到埃及的弟弟。⁵現在，你們不要再爲了出賣我的事，而難過自責了，因爲天主已經派我先來到這裏，爲拯救你們的性命。⁶這地方遭受饑荒已經兩年了，還要有五年的光景，不能耕種，也不能收成。⁷天主派我先來到這裏，使我們的種族能活下去，要我拯救你們大家。⁸所以，不是你們，而是天主他親自派我來這裏，使我成爲法老之父，他宮廷的主人，以及埃及的宰相。⁹你們快回到我父親那裏，對他說：‘你兒子若瑟帶給你消息了。他說：天主使我成爲全埃及的宰相，所以馬上來我這裏，不要在路途中耽誤。¹⁰你老人家和你的孩子、孫子、羊群、牛群，全家上上下下，你所有的，都要遷往哥笙，離我不遠的地方。¹¹我要供養你們，因爲還有五年的饑荒，免得你，你們家人和眷屬陷於饑荒。’¹²現在你們親眼看見了，我弟弟本雅明也看到了；是我親自對你們說話。¹³你們要詳實地告訴父親，我在埃及所享有的榮耀，也告訴他你們所看到的一切。快去把父親帶到這裏來。”

¹⁴若瑟摟住本雅明，痛哭流涕。本雅明也摟著若瑟哭起來。

¹⁵若瑟又親吻、擁抱其他的兄弟，他們才敢與他交談。¹⁶這消息傳遍法老的宮廷，人們說：“若瑟的兄弟在這裏。”這消息使法老和他的臣仆高興萬分。

¹⁷法老建議若瑟說：“叫你的兄弟們把牲口載滿貨物，回到迦南地，¹⁸再把你們的父親和全家人都帶到我這裏來。我要把埃及最好的土地送給你們，讓你們享用這塊地方的富饒！¹⁹你自己要這樣對他們下令說：從埃及趕一些馬車回去接你們妻小，也把你們的父親接來！²⁰不要眷戀

Joseph reveals himself

45 ¹Now Joseph could no longer control his feelings in the presence of all those standing by and he called out:

—Leave my presence, everyone!

And only his brothers were with him when Joseph made himself known to them. ²He wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard and the news spread through Pharaoh's house.

³Joseph said to his brothers:

—I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?

And his brothers could not answer because they were terrified at seeing him.

⁴Joseph said:

—Come closer.

And they drew nearer.

—I am Joseph your brother, yes, it's me, the one you sold to the Egyptians.

⁵Now don't grieve and reproach yourselves for selling me, because God has sent me before you to save your lives. ⁶It's two years since famine has been in the land and there will be another five years without tilling and without harvest. ⁷God has sent me ahead of you to make our race survive there and to save many of you. ⁸So it was not you but God who sent me here, and made me a father to Pharaoh and lord of his household, and ruler also of all the land of Egypt. ⁹Go back quickly to my father and say to him: 'Joseph your son sends you this message: God has made me lord of all Egypt; so come down to me without delay; ¹⁰you shall live in the land of Goshen and you shall be near me, you, your children and grandchildren, your flocks and your herds, all that you have. ¹¹And there I will provide for you (for there will be five more years of famine) lest you and your household and all who belong to you, be in need. ¹²Now you can see for yourselves, and your brother Benjamin can see that it is I myself who speak to you. ¹³You will tell my father of the glory I have in Egypt and of all that you have seen. Go quickly and bring my father down here.

¹⁴Joseph then threw his arms around Benjamin and wept. ¹⁵Then weeping he kissed and embraced his brothers and they began to talk with him.

留在迦南的產業，因為在埃及還有更好的東西將屬於你們！”

21 就這樣以色列的兒子們照做了。若瑟按法老的命令，交給他兄弟們一些馬車和旅途所需的口糧。22 他給每人路上洗換的衣服，他還給本雅明三百銀幣和五件衣服。23 他給自己的父親帶去十匹公驢，馱載著埃及最好的貨品，以及十匹母驢，也載著麥穀、麵包，以及他父親旅途所需的口糧。

24 就這樣，他送自己兄弟們上路了，臨走前，他對他們說：

“在路上不要吵架，安心回家吧！”

25 他們從埃及回到迦南地，回到父親雅各伯身邊。26 他們告訴他：

“若瑟還活著，他是埃及的宰相！”

雅各伯十分驚訝，簡直不敢相信他們的話。27 但是他們一一轉述了若瑟說的話，並指給他看若瑟交給他們的馬車，為來接他。雅各伯的心神恢復過來。他說：

“28 只要我知道兒子若瑟還活著，就心滿意足了，我要在死前去看他。”

雅各伯下到埃及

46 1 以色列帶著他所有的東西，離開迦南，來到貝爾舍巴，向他父親依撒格的天主奉獻祭品。2 當晚天主在異象中對以色列說：

“雅各伯！雅各伯！”

他回答：

“我在這裏。”

3 天主又說：

“我是天主，你父親的天主。不要怕到埃及去，因為我要在那裏使你發展成一個強大的民族。4 我會和你同去埃及，然後再把你帶回來。若瑟將親手合上你的雙眼。”

5 雅各伯離開貝爾舍巴。以色列的兒子們帶著他們的父親雅各伯，和他們的妻小，乘著若瑟派來接雅各伯的馬車。6 他們也帶著所有牲口，以及在迦南所積聚的財物。就這樣雅各伯和他家人；7 兒子、女兒、孫子、孫女及所有隨從來到了埃及。

24 Then he sent his brothers away and as they left he said:

—Don't quarrel on the way.

25 They returned from Egypt and came back to Jacob their father in Canaan.

26 They told him:

—Joseph is alive and he is the ruler of all Egypt!

Jacob was stunned for he could not believe them. 27 But they told him all that Joseph had said and showed him the wagons that Joseph sent to carry him. Then Jacob's spirit revived and he said:

28—It's enough, my son Joseph is alive; I will go and see him before I die.

Jacob goes down to Egypt

46 1 Israel left with all he owned and reached Beersheba where he offered sacrifices to the God of his father Isaac. 2 God spoke to Israel in visions that he had during the night:

—Jacob! Jacob!

He said:

—Here I am.

3—I am God, the God of your father. Do not be afraid to go to Egypt, for there I will make you into a great nation. 4 I will go with you to Egypt and I will bring you back again and Joseph's hand will close your eyes.

5 Jacob left Beersheba and the sons of Israel carried Jacob their father with their little children and their wives in the wagons that Joseph had sent to fetch him.

6 They also took their flocks and all that they had acquired in Canaan. And so it was that Jacob came to Egypt and with him all his family, 7 his sons and his grandsons, his daughters and his granddaughters, in short all his children he took with him to Egypt.

雅各伯見到若瑟

28 雅各伯派猶大先去，讓若瑟知道他來了，馬上會到哥笙地。

29 若瑟立刻備好馬車，動身往哥笙去迎接他父親。他一看見父親，就撲進父親懷中，在他肩膀大哭了一陣。30 以色列對若瑟說：“我死可瞑目了，因為我看到了你，知道你還好好活著。”

雅各伯在埃及

47 11 若瑟遵照法老的吩咐，把他父親和他兄弟們安頓在辣默色斯地區，將全埃及最好的土地送給他們。12 若瑟照顧著自己的父親、兄弟們和他們的全家大小，並依他們人口的多寡供給足夠的糧食。

雅各伯去世

48 1 過些時候，有人告訴若瑟：“你父親生病了！”若瑟便帶著他的兩個孩子默納疊和厄弗辣因去看父親。2 有人告訴雅各伯說：

“你兒子若瑟來看你了。”於是以色列打起精神坐在床上，3 對若瑟說：“全能的天主在迦南地的路次顯現給我，並且祝福我說：‘4 我會使你子孫眾多，人丁興旺，使你家族成爲一個大民族。我會把這土地賜給你和你的子孫，當做永久的產業。’5 在我來你這兒之前，你兩個在埃及出生的兒子，我現在要把他倆當作我的兒子：厄弗辣因和默納協要歸於我子孫行列，就像勒烏本和西默盎是我的孩子一樣。6 你的孩子，就是指在他倆之後所生的孩子，才能算是你的。不過，你的這些孩子仍然要以厄弗辣因和默納協的名份繼承他們份內的產業。

49 33 當雅各伯向他的兒子交待完這些遺囑後，就躺下，咽了最後一口氣，回到了他的先祖那裏。

50 15 父親過世後，若瑟的兄弟們起疑心說：

“如果若瑟因我們從前對他所做的壞事，懷恨報復我們，怎麼辦呢？”

Jacob meets Joseph

28 Jacob sent Judah ahead to let Joseph know he was coming and that he would soon arrive in the land of Goshen.

29 Joseph got his chariot ready in order to meet Israel his father in Goshen. He presented himself, threw his arms around his father and wept on his shoulder for a long time.

Jacob in Egypt

47 11 So Joseph had his father and brothers settled, giving them property in the best part of Egypt, in the land of Rameses as Pharaoh had commanded. 12 Joseph provided his father, his brothers and his father's entire household with food according to the number of their dependents.

Death of Jacob: Manasseh and Ephraim

48 1 Some time later, when Joseph was told that his father was ill, he took with him his two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim. 2 So they told Jacob that Joseph his son had come. Then Israel, mustering his strength, sat up in bed. 3 And he said to Joseph:

—God Almighty appeared to me at Luz in the land of Canaan and blessed me 4 saying, ‘I will make you fruitful and increase your number, and I will make of you a group of nations, and I will give this land to you and to your descendants after you as an everlasting possession.’ 5 From now on your two sons who were born in Egypt, before I came to you here, are mine! Ephraim and Manasseh shall be mine just as Reuben and Simeon are mine. 6 Only the children born after them will be yours and the land they inherit shall be known by the names of Ephraim and Manasseh.

49 33 When Jacob had given these instructions to his sons, he drew his feet up into the bed; he breathed his last and was gathered to his people.

50 15 When Joseph's brothers realized that their father was dead they said:

—What if Joseph turns against us in hate because of the evil we did him?

16 於是他們叫人傳話給若瑟說：

“父親死前，要我們對你說：17 ‘請你原諒兄弟們的過失和罪行，他們曾經陷害你。請原諒你父親天主的僕人所犯的罪。’ ”

若瑟聽到這些話，就哭了。18 他的兄弟們來見他，俯伏在他面前說：“我們願是你的奴僕。”

19 但是若瑟向他們保證，說：

“不要怕！我怎能代替天主行事呢？20 你們曾想害我，但是天主化凶為吉，才有今天你們所見的成就，保全這麼多人的性命。21 所以，不要再擔心！我一定會照顧你們和你們孩子的生活。”

他用這些話安慰他們，使他們放心。

若瑟去世

22 若瑟和他父親的家人留在埃及，他活了一百一十歲，23 他見到了厄弗辣因的曾孫。而默納協的兒子瑪基爾的孩子們，也都在若瑟的膝下出生。

24 若瑟對他的兄弟說：

“我快死了，但是天主一定會照顧你們，把你們從這地方，帶回到他誓許給亞伯郎、依撒格、和雅各伯的土地。”

25 若瑟要以色列的兒子們發誓，說：

“當天主帶領你們離開這地方時，把我的骨骸一起帶走。”

26 若瑟死時一百一十歲。人們用香料包殮他，在埃及將他安殮入棺。

這裏整部《創世紀》全部結束。在這部書中，作者通過歷史傳說和神話等形式介紹了以色列子民的宗教和歷史起源。然而，所有這些歷史描述都是表達以色列的宗教資訊。聖經中的描述並非單純記述歷史事件，反而運用歷史事件表達宗教資訊，這些宗教資訊就是《創世紀》的主題。

您可以參閱：

聖詠第二十三篇。這篇聖詠表達了天主是以色列子民的救主和牧者，萬民應該信賴他。也可參閱聖詠第一百零五篇。

16 So they sent word to Joseph saying:

—Before he died your father told us to say this to you: 17 Please forgive the crime and the sin of your brothers in doing evil to you. Forgive the crime of the servants of your father's God.

When he was given the message, Joseph wept. 18 His brothers went and threw themselves down before him, and said:

—We are your slaves.

19 But Joseph reassured them:

—Don't be afraid! Am I in the place of God? 20 You intended to do me harm, but God intended to turn it to good in order to bring about what is happening today—the survival of many people. 21 So have no fear! I will provide for you and your little ones.

In this way he touched their hearts and consoled them.

Death of Joseph

22 Joseph remained in Egypt together with all his father's family. He lived for a hundred and ten years, 23 long enough to see Ephraim's great-grandchildren, and also to have the children of Machir, the son of Manasseh, placed on his knees after their birth.

24 Then Joseph said to his brothers:

—I am going to die, but God will surely remember you and take you from this country to the land he promised to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

25 Joseph then made the sons of Israel swear, saying:

—When God comes to bring you out from here, carry my bones with you.

26 Joseph died at the age of one hundred and ten; they embalmed him and laid him in a coffin in Egypt.

Here ends the Book of Genesis. A “history of the origins” in which religious messages, traditions and legends, events of history are interwoven. But absolutely all these stories are written as religious messages. The Bible was never interested in telling these things as pure historical curiosities; rather it uses history, or invents it, to transmit a religious message. This religious message is the true argument of all these stories.

You can also see:

Psalm 23. It is a Psalm of trust with the image of God as a shepherd and as host. See also Psalm 105.