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Subject: [sermon] two poems on the Parshah

Dear Everyone – Sorry no sermon..this Shabbat I am trying to be a good Abba and not the center of attention. However I want to share two poems I wrote on the Parshah. I am reading torah this week and these poems were inspired by my study of the reading!! I want to thank everyone for their good wishes!!

Mark

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Dreamer

Parshat Vayeshev

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They hated his dreams
More than him.
After all, he was just
An annoying little brother,
Half related by father but not by mother.
His dreams threatened a certain future
And reminded them
That God often chooses
The younger over the old.

So how could they ignore him?
They threw him in a pit;
It was easier than raising a hand
Or using violence as their ancestors had.
They were not the first, nor the last,
To hate dreamers.
No one told them
That dreams never die;
They rise up

Like the dawn
To live again and again.

And You, God, stood by passively,
Having led him down this path,
Having sent a guide
To lead him into the depths.
What were You thinking? Could it be
That You wished to teach him, and us,
That dreams are never quite
What we think they're supposed to be?

Guilt

Who bore the greatest guilt?

The brothers, who plotted
Even before the dreamer arrived?

Judah, who saw in his younger sibling
A chance to enrich himself?

Was it Reuben,
Who meant well but bungled
The one opportunity to save Joseph;
He could have spoken words passion and truth.
Instead he used deceit to save his brother
Like his ancestors before him?

Or was it the father who
Sent his son on an ill fated mission,
Dressed in a coat that would remind
His others of their rage?

Who bore the greatest guilt?
Who failed to sleep at night?

Who was haunted by conscience and conduct?
Was it the brothers sat down
To a meal of bread and lentil soup;
Judah, who ran away
Seeking to hide among the Canaanites;
Reuben, who failed in leadership
And coveted his family birthright?

Tears were often spent for missed opportunity
And impulsive actions
Having acted, we fail to understand
Why we did or who we are...

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***“All it takes to study Torah is an open heart,
a curious mind and a desire to grow a Jewish soul.”***