

Genesis Chapter 37, verses 1 – 11

¹ Jacob, now known as Israel, settled in Canaan, his father's country.

² This is Joseph's story.

At the age of 17, Joseph was a tell-tale, never missing an opportunity to paint his half-brothers in a poor light to their father. Not surprisingly, there was little love lost between them.

³ The problem was that Joseph had been born to Israel when he was an old man, and Israel made no attempt to disguise the fact that Joseph was his favourite. In fact, he showered Joseph with gifts, including a fabulous robe, ⁴ the very sight of which so inflamed his half-brothers' hatred that they could barely bring themselves to speak to him.

⁵⁻⁶ 'Guess what I dreamed last night?' Joseph asked them one day, either oblivious to their growing resentment, or feeling that his position as Daddy's blue-eyed boy meant he could act as he pleased. ⁷ 'We were all out in the fields harvesting, when suddenly my bundle of corn stood up and all yours bowed down to it! What do you make of that?'

⁸ 'Dream on!' they spat back. 'Do you really believe anything in this world would ever make us bow down to you, you stuck-up little brat?' And their hatred burned hotter than ever.

⁹ Joseph had another dream, but once again lacked the wisdom to keep it to himself. 'Guess what? I had another dream last night. This time the sun, the moon and eleven stars were all bowing down to me.'

¹⁰ For once, even his father got angry with him. 'Stop this nonsense,' he said. 'Do you really think your mother and I, and all your brothers, are ever going to bow down to *you*?' ¹¹ However, while his brothers loathed Joseph all the more, Israel, who knew all too well how significant dreams can be, never forgot what Joseph had said.