

## The encounter between Jacob and his sons and the retelling to Joseph

### 43.2-10

And when they had eaten up the grain that they had brought from Egypt, **their father said to them, "Go again, buy us a little more food."** But Judah said to him, "The man solemnly warned us, saying, '**You shall not see my face unless your brother is with you.**' If you will send our brother with us, we will go down and buy you food; but if you will not send him, we will not go down, for the man said to us, 'You shall not see my face, unless your brother is with you.'" Israel said, "Why did you treat me so badly as to tell the man that you had another brother?" They replied, "The man questioned us carefully about ourselves and our kindred, saying, 'Is your father still alive? Have you another brother?' What we told him was in answer to these questions. Could we in any way know that he would say, 'Bring your brother down?'" Then Judah said to his father Israel, "Send the boy with me, and let us be on our way, so that we may live and not die--you and we and also our little ones. I myself will be surety for him; you can hold me accountable for him. If I do not bring him back to you and set him before you, then let me bear the blame forever. If we had not delayed, we would now have returned twice."

### 44.24-29

When we went back to your servant my father we told him the words of my lord. And when **our father said, 'Go again, buy us a little food,'** we said, 'We cannot go down. Only if our youngest brother goes with us, will we go down; for **we cannot see the man's face unless our youngest brother is with us.**' Then your servant my father said to us, 'You know that my woman bore me two sons; one left me, and I said, Surely he has been torn to pieces; and I have never seen him since. If you take this one also from me, and harm comes to him, you will bring down my gray hairs with evil to Sheol.'"

#### **changes:**

1. summarizing in 44:24 the entire exchange at 42:29-38
2. omitting Judah's previous "the man solemnly warned us" at 43:3
3. omitting Jacob's grumbling at his sons (43:6)
4. adding 44:27-29, adapted from the first exchange at 42:38, with the emphasis on "my woman" (singular)