

Genesis 44 shape and keywords

Then he commanded the one over his house, "Fill the men's **sacks** with food, as much as they can carry, and put each man's **silver** in the mouth of his **sack**. Put my cup, the **silver** cup, in the top of the **sack** of the **youngest**, with his **silver** for the grain." And he made the **word** that Joseph **worded**.

As soon as the morning was light, the men were sent away with their donkeys. When they had gone only a short distance from the city, Joseph said to the one over his house, "Go, follow after the men; and when you overtake them, say to them, 'Why have you repaid evil for good? [Why have you stolen my **silver** cup?] Is it not from this that **my lord** drinks? Does he not indeed use it for divination, yes, divination? You have done evil in doing this.'"

When he overtook them, he **worded** these **words** to them. They said to him, "Why does **my lord word** such **words** as these? Far be it from your **slaves** that they should do such a thing! Behold, the **silver** that we found at the mouth of our **sacks**, we returned to you from the land of Canaan; why then would we steal **silver** or gold from your lord's house? Should it be found with any one of your **slaves**, let him die; moreover the rest of us will become **my lord's slaves**." He said, "Even so; in accordance with your **words**, let it be: he with whom it is found shall become my **slave**, but the rest of you shall go free." Then each one quickly lowered his **sack** to the ground, and each man opened his **sack**. He searched, beginning with the eldest and ending with the **youngest**; and the cup was found in Benjamin's **sack**. At this they tore their clothes. Then each man loaded his donkey, and they returned to the city.

Judah and his **brothers** came to Joseph's house while he was still there; and they fell on their faces to the ground before him. Joseph said to them, "What deed is this that you have done? Do you not know that a man such as I can divine, yes, divine?" And Judah said, "What can we say to **my lord**? What can we **speak**? How can we show ourselves to be in the right? God has found out the guilt of your **slaves**; here we are then, **my lord's slaves**, both we and also the one in whose hand the cup has been found." But he said, "Far be it from me that I should do so! Only the one in whose hand the cup was found shall be my **slave**; but as for you, go up in shalom to your **father**."

Then Judah stepped up to him and said, "O **my lord**, let your **slave** please **word** a **word** in **my lord's** ears, and do not be angry with your **slave**; for you are like Pharaoh himself.

My lord asked his **slaves**, saying, 'Have you a **father** or a **brother**?' And we said to **my lord**, 'We have a **father**, an old man, and a **young brother**, the child of his old age. His **brother** is dead; he alone is left of his mother's children, and his **father** loves him.' Then you said to your **slaves**, 'Bring him down to me, so that I may set my eyes on him.' We said to **my lord**, 'The **boy** cannot leave his **father**, for if he should leave his **father**, his **father** would die.' Then you said to your **slaves**, 'Unless your **youngest brother** comes down with you, you shall see my face no more.'

When we went back to your **slave** 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 **slave** 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 in sorrow to Sheol.'

Now therefore, when I come to your **slave** my **father** and the **boy** is not with us, then, as his life is bound up in the **boy's** life, when he sees that the **boy** is not with us, he will die; and your **slaves** will bring down the gray hairs of your **slave** our **father** with sorrow to Sheol. For your **slave** became surety for the **boy** to my **father**, saying, 'If I do not bring him back to you, then I will bear the blame in the sight of my **father** all my life.' Now therefore, please let your **slave** remain as a **slave** to **my lord** in place of the **boy**; and let the **boy** go back with his **brothers**. For how can I go back to my **father** if the **boy** is not with me? I fear to see the suffering that would come upon my **father**."