

DE FESCH

JOSEPH

JOSEPH an Oratorio in Score

Composed by W. Defesch. 1745

Act the First

1 Overture

[scene 1]

Jacob

2 Be ware You Talk no More of these
Your Idle Slumbers
which to Your Kindred give offence
but rather Show that tho'Your Dreams
are of Command
your waking Thoughts are Prone to Service

Joseph

my Filial Duty & Fraternal Love
give Swiftnefs to my Feet & Mind

Jacob

Charming reply from almost infant lips!
tho'I Restrain thee from Remark
on these Celestial Visitations
'Hull well Forsee Thour't one Day
to perform Gods High Behests

3 HappyYouth HappyYouth

to whom kind Heav'n has such

Early favours Giv'n

Daily shall grow up with thee

Valour wisdom Chastity

Chorus

HappyYouth HappyYouth

to whom kind Heav'n has such

Early favours Giv'n

Daily shall grow up with thee

Valour wisdom Chastity

Jacob

4 But Hark the Host of Cherubims!

there1Voices join with my Prophetick Lays

in Confirmation of my Song

Chorus

5 HappyYouth HappyYouth

to whom kind Heav'n has such

Early favours Giv'n

Daily shall grow up with thee

Valour wisdom Chastity.

full of Virtue full of Grace

born to blefs our Hebrew Race

[scene 2]

Joseph

6 Alas my Eager Haste to Shew"

my fond Obedience

made meforget to take my Sire's Instructions

I fear this Path Mistaken

Sure I'm Wander'd Towards the Desert
Dreadfull Call'd from its Inhabitants
the wolves & Tigers
whence this Surprising Courage
that o'th Sudden
so warms my Heart
sure tis from Heav'n

7 I'll the Lion Dauntlefs meet
prefs the adder with my Feet
Somewhat whispers in my Ear
trust in God and banish fear

8 and See where sent by Providence
a Guide arrives
so wish'd for by my Erring Footsteps
Stranger, leads this way to the Vales
where Jacobs Sons feed their Rich Flocks!
Stranger
No Gentle Youth, widely you've
mifs'd Your Track:
But Mark the Nodding Plumage
of Yon Goodly Cedars
keep them upon Your Left,
You Cannot Err again. Farewell
Joseph
Thanks for this Timely Aid

9 Let me hasten away
for by this Delay

my Brethren Offended may Prove
No More will I Name
my Heavenly Dream
least' thereby I forfeit their Love

The Sons of Jacobas at Work[scene 3]

Reuben

10 Surely did not our faintness Tell
this world's Great Eye & Soul' is sunk
from its Meridian Height
I wonder much that our Refreshments
Come not
let us repose ourselves till their arrival

11 Underneath this plantane Shade
we the Sultry Heat evade
while the Gentle western Breeze
gives our Languid Spirits ease
Simeon

12 See in a Lucky Moment Comes the
Hated Dreamer with our Cates'
at once to satisfy our Hunger & Revenge
let us Mow Down this Tall prophetick Sheaf
that is to overlook its Fellows with
its Pride Blown Crest
Seize on him
Joseph
Ah me, what Violence
my Father sent me Early forth But-

Simeon

But knew not he sent forth his Fatted calf
to Slaughter.

he Cannot save thee now from the Uplifted knife

Joseph

Alafs! you will not slay me

too Cruel a Return to him

who Broughtyou Sustenance

to ComfortYours,'

to Take his Life away

Reuben

HisTender Pleadings Melt myVery Soul

Stay Brethren, lets Consider

Joseph

If You Consider Iam Safe

Consideration Never did so Fell an Act..

13 Tremble Shudderat the Guilt

Should my Harmlefs Blood be Spilt

You'd feel the pangs of Cursed Cain

like him repent your Crimes in vain

Reuben

14 with what intrepid Air & Reason Argues he

let us be advis'd

Let not his Blood be on us

Throw him intoYonder Pit

so left to Chance, nought more shall we

hear of him

at our Fathers house

[aside] Heav'n prosper this Deceit to Save
the Innocent
Till my Return
The Sons of Jacob

15 Let it be so
but first let's take
his Pageant Vestment'.
Simeon

16 There, Saucy Vanter"
Sleep Your Fill

17 Dream again of Sun and Moon
Dream Your Brethren Shall Bow Down
Boast of Your Exalted Sheaf
number' Stars o'er in Your Grave
[scene 4]

Joseph

18 oh Barbarous Effect
of Jealous pride and Hatefull Rage,
But let me not Complain
Rather let me Bless all [-JBounteous Heav'n,
that by Mirac'lous means has order'd
No water should possess this Pitt
to Cause my Instant Suffocation
Yet why should I approve Life
when its Duration nothing else must be
but one continual Scene of Misery

Surely Some pois'nous Dank annoy's my Brain
& to my Fathers Gathers me

19 Take me Dying, Silent Grave
best Relief SadWretches Have,
There no wrath, no pains affright
all is Silence all is Night
[scene 5]

Simeon

20 But a Few paces Farther and we'll find him,
Here, Take him.
Render us the price agreed
no Matter whither you convey him

Joseph

21 Alafs where am Igoing?

Ishmaelite
that we Can'tTell
unknowing who may prove the Highest Bidder

Joseph

Sure You'll let meto my Dear Fathers House
return

to chear his aking Heart

He'll well Reward-

Ishmaellte

Not so we part with property
what we Buy, we Sell again

Joseph

ahmel

do you for Your Species Traffick as for Beasts?

Ishmael/ite

22 O'er the Desarts, O'er the Main

we Still Roam in quest of Gain

and that fav'rite game in View

Scorning Dangers we pursue

Those this Hardy Life who Share"

Strangers to Compulsion are

to Compulsion Strangers are

Fine actio Prima

Act the 2nd

[scene 1]

Reuben So/us

1 These Thorns & Brambles I Remark'd

Surround the Horrid pit

Ohereitis

Dear Boy, I come to set thee Free,

to give thee Life and Liberty

But Ha! no quick Reply! all Hush as Night!

for Certain he is Dead O. fatal Lofs!

perhaps he sleeps; I'll Search" him

with my Staff,

the Pit is not too Deep;

Too Deep Alafs! for him by art or strength

t'escape

but he is Surely Gone, Ah me the Day!

by Some wild Beast Devour'd:

why Interpos'd I not with Force
against my Cruel Brethren?
Force had been Vain O'er[-]Number'd So:
I thought my Artfull Aequiescence Safest:
how weak is human wisdom in
the all[-]Seeing Eye of the Supreme
but Surely actions Expected are,
by Righteous Heav'n
proportion'd to the Talents Giv'n.

2 O Gracious Lord, O Lord of Israel
Hear Thy prostrate Servant's Humble prayer
Thou Seest the Secrets of my Heart
which in this Bloodshed had no part
Let not thy Vengeance Fall on me
Since both my Hand and Heart are Free

Jacob and his Sons[scene 2]

Jacob

3 Unheard of Carelessnefs or Dastard Cowardice

have ye our flocks so oft protected from

Savage Wolves

and Could not Save my Pretty, Tender Lamb

All

Take Comfort Father take Comfort

Jacob

Talk not to me of Comfort

Dark despair Surrounds me

Simeon

we'll Make a Further Search

Jacob

too well this Bloody Vest Informs

all Search is Vain

All

Take Comfort Father take Comfort

Jacob

for Ever Lost, my Darling Son

these weeping Eyes no more shall See

but I to thee will Hasten on

Since thou canst not return to me

scene 3]

Joseph Soius

4 How wisely Providence Bechequers

still our Pilgrimage

Seas'ning with Good our Evil Lot

'tis Surely done to set before us

that our Dependance¹³ is on our preserver

and not in our own Skill and Prowefs

Could Human thoughts have Once Imagin'd

when in the Noisome Pit

that God intended to Bring me to

this Happynefs

(if ought¹⁴ this world affords Can be Call'd Such)

and prosper alii undertake

5 Let me Ever look toThee

Author of all Good to me.

I with thankfull heart declare

wonderfull thy Blefsings are

[scene 4]

6 but Still one Dread remains

not in the least of myown Frailty

butt or another's

Let me rest Content

he that is strong Resolv'd to do no Evil

Need not fear Any

My Cause of fear Approaches

Potiphar's Wife

why how now, Hebrew Youth

so Strict in meditation

thy Blooming Years Demand more lively Hours

Joseph

Much honour'd Lady

my Deep Contemplation

(having first made my Orisons to Heav'n)

was Fix'd upon the wealth & welfare

of my Right Noble Lord

Potiphar's Wife

Think no More

thy Lord is Rich Enough pofsefsing Thee.

7 Such a Lovely prudent Youth

with such Modesty and Truth

sure kind fate appointed You

to Blefs your Lord and Mifstrefs too

This Aspect so Reserv'd give O'er

This awfull Distance keep no More

Behold a Gratefull friend in Me

Esteeming Your Fidelity

Joseph

8 Too well, I Dread, I Understand her

But I must Dissemble

Madam I Greatly fear

my Absence from Diligent O'er[-]Spection

of the Num'rous Troop that people You

Enamell'd Mead"

May Much Redound to Disadvantage of My

Honour'd Lord.

9 The Mower Calls with Cheerful Note

warbling from his Artful Throat

and the Damsels Trip along

.Chanting forth the Rustick Song

She [Potiphar's Wife]

10 Sure I in absence of the Lord

may be Obey'd as his Vice:Regent".

Tempt not the Scorching Sun to kiss

that Dimpl'd Cheek

He

I Must be gone

She

may then I say

You Shall Not

Duetto

She

11 You See what Idare not Say

Joseph

I See what Idare not Say

"She

Love Commands andYou Must Stay

Joseph

Virtue Calls, Imust away

scene 5]

Potiphar's Wife

12 Furies! Death andTorture

Slighted thus my Charms & Love

no Comfort now is Left me But Revenge

The only Solace for awoman Scorn'd

& that I'll have recourse to

13 Dark and Dismal thoughts remove,

remove Ev'ry trace of Suppliant Love

in his Turn the Slave Shall know

part of what I undergo

ah! me, the Task is too severe

the Charmer from my HearttoTear

Fondnefs and Rage in Equal Strife

Distract, Consume this wretched Life.

[scene 6]

14 and see where Opportunely Comes

the Injur'd Venger" ofmy Injury

So Sir, You've wisely done

to bring a Hebrew Slave to MockYour Honour.

Potiphar

what means my Love?

She

let this Garment, my Blushes Sparing, Tell",
which from the Flying Shoulder of the Ravisher
my Shrill Screams Exacted

I Cannot bear it

Potiphar

No, nor Shall ye.

Duetto

She

15 Revenge inspires me

He

Honour Fires me

Both

Let the Impious Villain Dye
Thus Disgrac'd let us haste
to Chastize such Treachery
Fine Atto Secondo

Act the 3rd

[scene 1]

Joseph Solus

1 what Strange Revolutions Yet,
all[-] Gracious Heav'n
am I ordain'd to prove!"
For some, £Etherial Being still attends me
Minist'ring Comfort

2 the Lord who from the Murd'ring knife

Screen'd and Snatch'd me into Life

Redeem'd me when I was a Slave

will not Leave me in the Grave.

General

3 where is the pris'ner so renown'd

by the Almighty Gifted

with such wond'rous Skill of Solving Dreams

our Eastern Magi all so far Excelling

Goa/ei'"

Lo where he Lays

and Marvells has perform'd in his Confinement

General

Such high Talents might deserve

a better situation!

Behold the Royal Signature,

whose Ears" his fame has reach'd,

for his Releasement

Come, Sir, on, with me

4 Honour, wealth & Power too

Shall for Your Reward be Due

If with wisdom You are Bles'd

to Relieve a Monarch's Breast

[scene 2]

Reuben

5 Oh Racking Torment

How shall we longer bear

this pinching Famine's Short Allowance?

No Gleaming Ray of Hope or Comfort

to illumine our Desponding Souls

but still the Horror of a Shorter Yet before us

Simeon

How e'er Severe upon the General"

Just are thy Judgements, Lord, on us

for our poor Joseph's Bondage

But let's united be in our Repentance:

what Can't Repentance do?

Reuben

Let us the Mournfull Ashes and the Humble

Sackcloth wear

[The sons of Jacob]

6 Prostrate on the Earth we'll say

be our Offences done away

Reuben

7 with Contrite Heart & weeping Eyes

We'll Deprecate our Misery

Simeon

8 to our Contrition let us add Obedience

as our Father has Ordain'd.

Haste to the ,£Egyptian Land.

[scene 3]

Chorus

9 Blow the Fife with Chearfull Noise

Sound the Trumpet's Brazen Voice
Sing th'inspir'd Seer's praise
to such wisdomTrophys" Raise
with gay flowers strew the Ground
let the Virgins dance around
Thro'the Streets in Triumph Bring
the Hero Honour'd by our King
General

10 thus by our Sovereign's Command
we leaveYour Highners in Porsersion
ofthis Pallace
the Sole Vice Roy of this Eastern quarter
ofthis Domain
Joseph
For these Exalted Honours
let my Most HumbleThanks be Render'd

11 Ye Lofty Columns, Guilded Roofs
Dazzling Arches, Vistas Superb
HowVainYour Splendorto Relieve
an Aking Heart
that pines once more to See
my Lov'd and Loving Father
& pretty prattling Partner
of My Mother's fond affection"

12 but Biers my Eyes! what Object Strikes 'em?
my once Cruel Brethren.
Ihope my Gorgeous Garb this Courtesy at least

will do me, to hide me from their Sight
General
Most Mighty Lord
as Posted on my Guard, these Strangers
I have Seiz'd
unknowing their Intent, have brought 'em
to Your Highness's Examination
Joseph
Vile Hostile Spies
but we have Racks & Irons for 'em
Simeon
All Hail great Prince
thy Servants are of Israel's Tribe
& drove by Famine Come in hopes
of Buying Sustenance
Joseph
This well invented Story Boots 'em not at all

13 Wisdom with its poignant" Eye
Sees thro' Basest Treachery
Art the Sooner makes Descry'd
what it was Employ'd to hide

14 Away with 'em
Get the Most Marsy Gyves"
and Deepest Dungeons ready
[aside] Ah painful Counterfeit
Simeon
Sublime Disposer of Our Fate
permit us before your Dreaded Sentence

pars to Execution
on our Knees to Tell the Truthfull Narrative
of our Afflicted Family:
we are all Brethren, one Man's Sons
our Father by another Partner had two more
one of those Sons was [-] lost
the other is tooYoung, his Sire too old,
to Yield each other the Minutest Service
So pleaseYou take our Lives away
Theres" tooYou Take,
who your High Judgement knows are Guiltlers
Joseph
well have you pleaded and I have Fix'd
on a Criterion ofYour Veracity:
letYour Infant Brother Soon be
Brought before me
Simeon
we fear our Father-
Joseph
one word of Hesitation More, ye Dye
Simeon
we haste with swift Compliance
Joseph
SeeYou take Hostages fortheirReturn
& well supply 'em with Refreshment
ere their Departure
and D'ye Hear?
General
I Shall Obey
[Exeunt]

[scene 4]

Joseph

15 How heav'n Show'rs its Blelsings on me
with such profusion, My Aking Brain
can Scarce Endure it

16 Blood, this hasty Course give O'er
Fluttermy Fond Heart no more
Reason Mitigate the Joy
orth'excels wil soon Destroy

17 Imust within Repose my Self to calmnefs
Good providence protect me.

[scene 5]

Simeon

18 We're now upon !Egyptian Ground
a little Farther Guides us to the palace
let us haste

19 The HOWling wolf at Midnight Roams
by Hunger prefs'd with Fury Foams
Snuffs up the Air, the Bait he winds"
by Fatal Scent the Morsel Finds
Intrepid leaps into the Snare
tho' certain death Attends him there

[scene 6]

Joseph

20 bring in the Strangers

so Ye have well approv'd Your Selves to be
the persons ye wou'd pafs for.

think ye because ye stole my Cup, Sacred
to Divination,
ye therefore stole my pow'r of Discernment
that I might mistake Evil for Good
as you have made Return for a Requital
of your kind Reception;

Stealing the Gold with which
you purchas'd Corn?

Benjamin

Great Prince our Lives are in your Hands
but let not your Greatnefs Divest its self of
Justice.

we are Innocent, unknowing
how either Cup or Corn Came there

Joseph

[aside] Oh Charming Spokesman!

So this is Your Brother whom ye told me of

Simeon

My Lord it is

Joseph

Early Practitioner in Artifice & Flattery

[aside] oh my Heart!

Benjamin

Let me find favour to Relate
our Undisguis'd Tale

21 Feeding Flocks upon the plain

we a Harmlefs Life Sustain

by our Birth and Nature Free
from such Guilt or Robbery

All

22 In Your all[-]Discerning Mind
let Your Servants Mercy Find

Joseph

23 I can withhold no Longer
The Gush of this Salt Humour""
must Relieve me
all Arise
Come hither Lad

All

what Sudden Change is this?

Joseph

24 Whilst my Rapture I Conceal
Swelling Sighs my heart Reveal
Only Heav'n Could bestow
the Extacy that Strikes me now
25 they do not Yet Discover me
let me this Brilliant Circle of my Diadem put off
my Open front! I must surely make me known

All

26 O heav'ns our Brother
Pardon us Lord

Joseph

27 I pray ye rise

talk not of Pardon

Rather with this Embrace accept myThanks

that ye have been the happy Instrument

of Heav'n

to Convey me Good

Simeon

CanYou forgive our Cruelty

Joseph

no more, Ido beseech ye

to the Noble Soul the most Consummate Joy is

to have power of conferring Ourforgivenefs

which Joy increases as the Injury is Greater

How Much Oblig'd then are we

to those that do us wrong

Simeon

Generous Sentiment

Joseph

But how fares our Father?

Lives he, is he well?

Simeon

In Perfect Health, Saving his Grief

for his imagin'd Lofsofyou, my Lord

Joseph

Enough. My Dreams Accomplish'd

No longer Lord, once moreYour Brother

Nothing is wanting but his Presence here

to make our happynefs Compleat

which Your Goodnefs will, with utmost haste,

. procure. meanwhileThis Treasure33 leave

"With me

Duetto

Joseph

28 O Delight beyond Expressing

Simeon

Unutterable Blessing

Joseph

After all my flowing Tears

Simeon

after all my Chilling Fears

Both

to Embrace You once again

all my mourning You returning

Ends in pleasure with out Measure

vanish'd now is Anxious pain

Chorus

29 Let us our Grateful voices raise

Sound all your instruments of praise

Bless the Great Jehovah's Name

to the Heathen tell his Fame

Thro' the Universe be known

the Mighty wonders he has Done

Fine