

THE TESTAMENT OF YAHUSAPH

CHAPTER 1

1 The copy of the testament of Yahusaph. When he was about to die he called his sons and his brethren together, and said to them:

2 My brethren and my children, hearken to Yahusaph the beloved of Yashar'al; give ear, my sons, unto your father.

3 I have seen in my life envy and death, yet I went not astray, but persevered in the amat of .אלאמ

4 These my brethren hated me, but אלאמ loved me: they wished to slay me, but the AL of my fathers guarded me: they let me down into a pit, and the Most High brought me up again.

5 I was sold into slavery, and the AL of all made me free: I was taken into captivity, and His strong hand succoured me. I was beset with hunger, and אלאמ Himself nourished me.

6 I was alone, and AL comforted me: I was sick, and אלאמ visited me: I was in prison, and my AL showed favour unto me; in bonds, and He released me;

7 Slandered, and He pleaded my cause; bitterly spoken against by the Mitsriym, and He delivered me; envied by my fellow-slaves, and He exalted me.

CHAPTER 2

1 And this chief captain of Pharaoh entrusted to me his house.

2 And I struggled against a shameless woman, urging me to transgress with her; but the AL of Yashar'al my father delivered me from the burning flame.

3 I was cast into prison, I was beaten, I was mocked; but אלאמ granted me to find mercy in the sight of the keeper of the prison.

4 For אלאמ does not forsake them that fear Him. Neither in darkness, nor in bonds, nor in tribulations, nor in necessities.

5 For AL is not put to shame as a man, nor as the son of man is He afraid, nor as one that is earth-born is He weak or affrighted.

6 But in all these things He gives protection, and in divers ways He comforts, though for a little space He departs to try the inclination of the soul.

7 In ten temptations He showed me approved, and in all of them I endured; for endurance is a mighty charm, and patience gives many good things.

CHAPTER 3

1 How often did the Mitsri woman threaten me with death! How often did she give me over to punishment, and then call me back and threaten me, and when I was unwilling to company with her, she said to me:

2 You will be master over me, and all that is in my house, if you give yourself unto me, and you will be as our master.

3 But I remembered the words of my father, and going into my chamber, I wept and prayed unto .אלאמ

4 And I fasted in those seven years, and I appeared to the Mitsriym as one living delicately, for they that fast for אֱלֹהִים's sake receive beauty of face.
5 And if my master were away from home, I drank no wine; nor for three days did I take my food, but I gave it to the poor and sick.
6 And I sought אֱלֹהִים early, and I wept for the Mitsri woman of Memphis, for very unceasingly did she trouble me, for also at night she came to me under pretence of visiting me.
7 And because she had no male child she pretended to regard me as a son.
8 And for a time she embraced me as a son, and I knew it not; but later, she sought to draw me into fornication.
9 And when I perceived it I sorrowed unto death; and when she had gone out, I came to myself, and I lamented for her many days, because I recognised her guile and her deceit.
10 And I declared unto her the words of the Most High, if haply she would turn from her evil lust.

CHAPTER 4

1 Often, therefore, did she flatter me with words as a consecrated man, and guilefully in her talk praise my chastity before her husband, while desiring to ensnare me when we were alone.
2 For she lauded me openly as chaste, and in secret she said unto me: Fear not my husband; for he is persuaded concerning your chastity: for even should one tell him concerning us, he would not believe.
3 Owing to all these things I lay upon the ground, and besought AL that אֱלֹהִים would deliver me from her deceit.
4 And when she prevailed nothing thereby, she came again to me under the plea of instruction, that she might learn the word of AL.
5 And she said unto me: If you will that I should leave my idols, lie with me, and I will persuade my husband to depart from his idols, and we will walk in the Torah of your אֱלֹהִים.
6 And I said unto her: אֱלֹהִים wills not that those that reverence Him should be in uncleanness, nor does He take pleasure in them that commit adultery, but in those that approach Him with a pure heart and undefiled lips.
7 But she held her shalum, longing to accomplish her evil desire.
8 And I gave myself yet more to fasting and prayer, that אֱלֹהִים might deliver me from her.

CHAPTER 5

1 And again, at another time she said to me: If you will not commit adultery, I will kill my husband by poison, and take you to be my husband.
2 I therefore, when I heard this, rent my garments, and said unto her: Woman, reverence אֱלֹהִים, and do not this evil deed, lest you be destroyed; for know indeed that I will declare this your device unto all men.
3 She therefore, being afraid, entreated me not to declare this device.
4 And she departed soothing me with gifts, and sending to me every delight of the sons of men.
5 And afterwards she sent me food mingled with enchantments.
6 And when the eunuch who brought it came, I looked up, and beheld a terrible man giving me with the dish a sword, and I perceived that her scheme was to beguile me.
7 And when he had gone out I wept, nor did I taste that or any other of her food.

8 So then after one day she came to me and observed the food, and said unto me: Why is it that you have not eaten of the food? And I said unto her: It is because you have filled it with deadly enchantments; and how did you say: I come not near to idols, but to אלהים alone? Now therefore know that the AL of my father has revealed unto me by His malak your wickedness, and I have kept it to convict you, if haply you may see and repent.

9 But that you may learn that the wickedness of the ungodly has no power over them that worship אלהים with chastity, behold I took it and ate it before her eyes, and I said unto her: The AL of my fathers and the angel of Abraham and Yatschaq and Ya'aqob will be with me, and the angel of אלהים that keeps me will not suffer me to fall into this sin.

10 But her heart was changed to wrath, and she reproached me, and said: You are not willing to commit fornication with me, but you will be king over me.

11 And she said unto me: It must be that you love me, Yahusaph; and I said unto her: It is because I fear אלהים that I will not sin before Him and before men.

12 And when she could not prevail over me, she went to her husband and said unto him: Your Hebrew servant has forced me.

13 And when he heard these words he cast me into prison in his house, and on the morrow he scourged me and sent me into Pharaoh's prison.

CHAPTER 6

1 And when I was in bonds, the Mitsri woman was oppressed with grief, and she came and heard how I gave thanks unto אלהים and sang praises in the abode of darkness, and with glad voice, rejoicing, glorified my AL that I was delivered from the hands of Beliar (Baal) and from the hands of the Mitsri woman.

2 And often has she sent unto me saying: Consent to fulfill my desire, and I will release you from your bonds, and I will free you from the darkness.

3 And not even in thought did I incline unto her.

4 For אלהים loves him who in a den of darkness combines fasting with chastity, rather than the man who in king's chambers combines luxury with license.

5 And if a man lives in chastity, and desires also esteem, and the Most High knows that it is expedient for him, He bestows this also upon me.

CHAPTER 7

1 How often, though she were sick, did she come down to me at unlooked-for times, and listen to my words that I might be compelled to converse with her.

2 And how often did she flatter me with words as a consecrated man, and praise my chastity before her husband, while desiring to ensnare me when we were alone.

3 But I guarded myself from her with care, and I praised and esteemed אלהים in my youth.

4 For I understood that I was under