

brethren were much troubled to find the gold therein; going home, they told their father all that had happened, and how Simeon was kept as a hostage by the governor of Egypt, until they should return with Benjamin. The old man was much grieved at what he heard, and declared that he would never permit Benjamin to leave him, fearing lest evil should befall him like his brother Joseph.

Q. Did Jacob keep this resolution?

A. No; the following year, when all the corn bought from Egypt was eaten up, and the famine still continued, Jacob was forced to permit Benjamin to go with his brethren into Egypt, so that a fresh supply might be obtained, and their brother Simeon released from prison.

Q. What did Joseph when they returned with Benjamin?

A. He released Simeon; invited them to eat at his own table, and treated them with marked distinction, especially Benjamin, his brother by the same mother; and when they were leaving, Joseph ordered his silver to be placed in Benjamin's sack, as he wished to give his brethren one more trial.

Q. How did Joseph's brethren receive the honors paid them?

A. They were much astonished by the treatment they received, and knew not what to think of it; they were still more amazed when, having gone a little way on their homeward journey, they were overtaken by a messenger from the governor of Egypt, charging them with having stolen his master's silver cup.