

A papyrus manuscript that can be closely dated to about 1225 B.C. in the nineteenth dynasty, contains ~~the story~~ an Egyptian folktale about two brothers. It begins with a situation involving the younger brother and the wife of the older brother, that is strikingly similar to the incidents of Joseph and Potiphar's wife. Some scholars say that this is the source upon which the story of Joseph in the Bible was based.

However, this is not the most likely interpretation of the relationship between the two stories. In the first place, the Egyptian story of the two brothers is a very bizarre and fantastic story, going far beyond most Egyptian stories in this regard and utterly unlike the matter-of-fact account of Joseph's experience. ~~In addition~~ Thus when the older brother tries to kill the younger brother who has been falsely accused by the older brother's wife, the ~~cows~~ ^{oxen} tell the younger brother that the older brother is hiding behind the door awaiting to kill him. However, the first part of the story which tells about the relation between the younger brother and the older brother's wife has comparatively little of the bizarre as compared with the latter part of the story which is simply filled with it, and ~~it~~ contains elements such as the following. At one point, while the older brother is pursuing the younger brother in order to kill him, the younger brother cries out to the sun god for help and the sun god makes a great body of water spring up between the two brothers, full of crocodiles, so that the older brother cannot reach the younger brother. (6) Eventually the younger brother is killed but is brought back to life, eventually goes to the court of pharaoh and there is accepted as crown prince and eventually becomes king himself.

Rather than to think that the incident in the life of Joseph was modelled upon this grotesque folk tale, it is much more reasonable particularly since the Egyptian story is definitely later than the time of Joseph, to think that the relation is just the reverse. ~~Such~~ The story of how Joseph rose from being an ~~slave~~ imprisoned slave to become the leader of the Egyptian economy must have been widely discussed, and every known incident of his life repeated over and over in all sections of Egypt. ~~It is easy to see that~~ Very easily then