

(I) JOSEPH'S ORDERS

1. Fill the sacks of the children of Jacob with food (Genesis 44:1a)
2. Return the money they used to make the purchases (Genesis 44:1b)
3. Put Joseph's silver cup into Benjamin's sack (Genesis 44:2a)
4. The servants of Joseph obeyed his orders (Genesis 44:2b)

(II) THE CHILDREN OF JACOB PLAN TO RETURN HOME

1. They began their return journey early in the morning
2. They were sent away with their donkeys; no one was remanded (Genesis 44:3)

(III) FURTHER ORDERS

1. Joseph's steward was asked to chase after the children of Jacob (Genesis 44:4)
2. The steward was to:
 - a) Confront the brothers
 - b) Charge the brothers for stealing Joseph's divination cup (Genesis 44:5-6)

(IV) THE RESPONSE OF THE BROTHERS

1. They protested their innocence (Genesis 44:7)
2. They rehearsed what they had said to the steward earlier (Genesis 44:8)
3. If the steward found Joseph's cup in one of their sacks, that person would pay with his life (Genesis 44:9a)
4. And all of them would become the servants of Joseph (Genesis 44:9b)
5. The steward agreed (Genesis 44:10)

(V) THE SEARCH

1. All the sacks were opened for examination (Genesis 44:11)

2. The divination cup was found in Benjamin's sack (Genesis 44:12)
3. The brothers almost went out of their mind. How could this have happened? (Genesis 44:13)
4. They returned to Egypt to support Benjamin (Genesis 44:13-14)

(VI) IN JOSEPH'S HOUSE AGAIN

1. The brothers prostrated themselves before Joseph once again (Genesis 44:15)
2. Joseph adopts a stern demeanour (Genesis 44:16)
 - a) Why had they resorted to stealing?
 - b) Did they not know that the governor would have found them out?
3. Judah's lament
 - a) That God had found out their iniquity and punishing them (Genesis 44:16)
 - b) He had no other word to offer the governor (Genesis 44:16)
 - c) He offered all the brothers to bear the burden of the guilt
 - d) They would stay with Benjamin in prison (Genesis 44:16)
4. Joseph rejects this offer
 - a) Benjamin would be remanded
 - b) The brothers can return home (Genesis 44:17)

(VII) JUDAH'S HEART-FELT PLEA

1. He begins by acknowledging the authority of the governor (Genesis 44:18)
2. He rehearses all the events
 - a) From the time they came to Egypt
 - b) Till the present moment (Genesis 44:19-30)

3. He pleads for mercy to be shown for the old age of Jacob

4. He offered himself as a replacement for Benjamin (Genesis 44:29-34)