



**Bridge Over Troubled Waters
Vayigash
2015**

Breishit 46:29-30

Joseph harnessed his chariot and he went to greet his father Israel in Goshen. He presented himself and embraced him around the neck, weeping on his neck for a long time. "Now I can die," said Israel to Joseph. "I have seen your face, and you are still alive."	וַיֹּאסֶר יוֹסֵף מְרֻכָּבָתוֹ, וַיַּעַל לְקִרְאֵת-יִשְׂרָאֵל אָבִיו גֹּשֶׁן; וַיֵּרָא אֵלָיו, וַיִּפֹּל עַל-צַוְאַרְיוֹ, וַיִּבֶךְ עַל-צַוְאַרְיוֹ, עוֹד. וַיֹּאמֶר יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶל-יוֹסֵף, אֲמוּתָה הַפֶּעַם, אַחֲרֵי רְאוֹתַי אֶת-פְּנֵיךָ, כִּי עוֹדֶךָ חַי.
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Who Cried?

Joseph

Rashi Breishit 46:29

Joseph wept greatly and continuously, but Jacob, however, did not fall upon his neck nor did he kiss him, for, as the sages say, he was occupied with reciting the shma.	הוסיף בבכי יותר על הרגיל אבל יעקב לא נפל על צוארי יוסף ולא נשקו, ואמרו רבותינו שהיה קורא את שמע
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R. Hirsch Breishit 46:29-30

Joseph wept. Jacob did not weep. Jacob had ceased to weep long ago but Joseph still wept. He was still weeping when Jacob was talking with him. These little details reflect a profound truth. Through all the years of Joseph's absence, Jacob had led a dull, monotonous life, weeping for Joseph. All his emotions had been spent in mourning Joseph. Joseph's life, in the meantime, had been a most eventful one. As a result, Joseph had had no time to surrender so completely to the pain of separation from his father. He was totally absorbed in the immediate present. But now, in his father's embrace, he truly felt the emotional impact of this separation and relived the twenty years that had passed. Jacob had already become Israel, but Joseph was still weeping.

Sarna Breishit 46:29

The reunion of father and son, cruelly separated for so long, is marked by mute embrace and copious tears. No words are initially exchanged, for none can be adequate. Only the sounds of Joseph's weeping pervade the silence.



Alter Breishit 46:29

We are invited to imagine...a sobbing Joseph who embraces his father while the old man stands dry-eyed, perhaps even rigid, too overcome with feeling to know how to respond, or to be able to respond spontaneously, until finally he speaks...with a sense of contentment: "I may die now, after seeing your face, for you are still alive."

Jacob

Ramban Breishit 46:29

It is more natural to assume that the father wept over his son than the reverse. Who more easily sheds tears? It is well known whose tears are more present, the aged parent who finds his long-lost son alive after having despaired and mourned for him, or the young son that rules.

ודבר ידוע הוא מי
דמעתו מצויה, אם
האב הזקן המוצא את
בנו חי לאחר היאוש
והאבל, או הבן הבכור
המולך.