

GOD WILL ANSWER*

וַיַּעַן יוֹסֵף אֶת־פַּרְעֹה

לֵאמֹר בְּלִעְדֵי

אֱלֹהִים יֵעָנֶה

אֶת־שְׁלוֹם פַּרְעֹה:

And Joseph answered Pharaoh,
saying: [It is] not in me;
God will answer,
the welfare of Pharaoh.

And Joseph answered Pharaoh, saying—He had the opportunity to contrive a self-serving answer but did not. *[It is] not in me*—He removed from himself credit for the wisdom he was about to impart. He had matured from childish pride to a recognition of his role as a vessel of God. *God will answer*—Joseph then became the teacher of Pharaoh (41:39), who had initially perceived him as an expert “dream interpreter” (41:15) rather than an instrument of divine providence. *The welfare of Pharaoh*—Joseph teaches pharaoh about the one God who is concerned for all humankind (and creation) and who does not exclude those in power or the millions who are affected by their decisions. [Joseph here is a “light to the nations.”]

* Genesis 41:16 (in Miketz)