

INTRODUCTION



Count your words—so you can count on them.

It was said that Winston Churchill “mobilized the English language and sent it into battle.” This work, too, rallies words for war—not a physical one, but a battle for the soul. I have lived as Joe; I have lived as Yosef, and I continue to wrestle with Joe, even as Yosef. This manuscript expresses the truths distilled in the heat of tension between passion and truth.

Precision is the armor of truth. In *Me'am Loetz* (Parshat Bo), the author highlights the Torah's exactness by detailing the Sages' debate over a single word: “all.” From the commandment to remember the Exodus “all the days of your life” (Devarim 16:3), we are reminded of a fundamental law: in the Torah nothing is incidental. Every word is of consequence; every letter carries significance; even the unique “crowns” upon the letters carry meaning.

I aim to use the tool of precision in a form that is unique and logically unshakable, as a testament to the divine truth of the Torah's guidance. My intention is to fulfill the commandments of doing kindness, pursuing truth, and distancing oneself from falsehood. The root of the Hebrew word for commandment shares the meaning “to connect”; at the core of each commandment lies the benefit of connecting to God—the greatest good. My intention is to benefit both myself and the reader. Only God orchestrates such mutually beneficial outcomes.

As proprietary as this presentation may be, truth is not owned—it is available to those who seek it sincerely, though its boundaries guard it from the arrogant. As King David instructed Solomon: “If you search for Him, you will find Him” (I Chronicles 28:9). Yet even the discerning can be blinded by bribes (Devarim 16:19). Temptation acts as a bribe to the heart; but if one refuses it and accepts humility, the discovery of truth is inevitable. As the Sages teach (Megillah 6b): “If a person says, ‘I have strived but not found,’ do not believe him.”

Every word in this book serves a purpose. Even the cover invites reflection, and in reading this introduction alone, one fulfills the mitzvah of remembering the Exodus.

Yet I urge you to proceed, as each page will deepen the benefit.

In this work, I have strived—to the best of my ability—to reflect the concept of precision in the presentation of truth. Every word is deliberate. Every rhyme is exact. Within each rhyming section, every line contains an identical word count. This hidden mathematical structure reflects the care, accuracy, and precision behind each idea.

JoeAndYosef.com provides a place for continued inquiry and engagement. There will be a platform for thoughtful voices to express their support, yet this work stands on its own foundation—built upon lived experience, reliable sources, sound reason, and the unmistakable mark that truth leaves upon the heart.

I remain far from embodying the totality of these writings. I will follow the Sages' advice and not place trust in myself until the day I die (Pirkei Avot 2:4).

What you can count on is the measured truth of these words—because they have already been counted.

JOE MEETS YOSEF



JOE

I wish there was someone who understood my life.
The fun I chase, while escaping the inner strife.

YOSEF

Don't worry, my dear friend,
I am here, a Godsend.

I already followed your path of chasing.
I want to save you from suffering.

You need help, and I am here for you.
Let's get down to what I'm here to do.

JOE

Do you have any idea where I'm at?
I have seen the world; you forget that.

YOSEF

Yes, but you have exclusively faulty information.

JOE

Are you going towards selling me religion?
It doesn't do well for my digestion,
I just can't swallow all that indoctrination.
My life's a vacation, following my passion,
It's all about the next fun occasion.

YOSEF

Right now, you may be having fun,
But you'll have nothing once it's done.
I've been on your run, my son.
Learn from my words and find reason.
I can free you from your illusions.
I'll try to save you from degradation.

My life still has challenges, but there is now a destination.
Life assumes a new meaning when you have the right information.

JOE

I want relaxation, not worries about transgression.
That's where you're heading—talking about religion.

YOSEF

You live for now without considering the repercussions.
I'm here to tell you about the ramifications.

You determine your course with every decision—
Change paths before pain becomes your destination.
My journeys have granted my vision precision,
Take direction from someone beyond your position.
I can provide real information, no speculation.

JOE

Summarize for me your progression
From me to your situation.

YOSEF

I lived a secular and carefree life
 And I also tasted the spiritual life,
 The college life and the bachelor life,
 The city life and the night life,
 Family life, with kids and a wife.

I know all about your expedition.
 You'll never reach your sought-after satisfaction.
 Your fun is just a fabrication,
 Your life is one of desolation.

Let me provide you with essential information,
 Maybe something I say will induce inspiration.
 I'll leave you alone after our conversation.

JOE

When did you come to these realizations?

YOSEF

After I completed my worldly college education,
 I was filled with totally false expectations,
 Assumed I would ride through life's navigations.
 Three years passed with no worthwhile acquisitions.
 I indulged in fun, found no satisfaction.

So I took a break to reevaluate
 And traveled up to the Jewish State.
 I started to get honest and recalibrate,
 Observing the world with a fresh slate.

I focused on the teachings of the wisest man who deliberated,
 Which guided me on my journey of getting my thoughts formulated.

JOE

Who's the wisest man?

YOSEF

That is King Solomon.

Also many other wise sages,
Our teachers throughout the ages
Who guide through life's stages.

Their wisdom, combined with my experimentation,
Provided me with uniquely valuable information.

JOE

How do your observations establish confirmation?

YOSEF

By comparing things, you attain a better perception.
By contrasting things, you further expand your vision.

JOE

I see plenty, I'm indulging in this without any reservation.

YOSEF

You're living a life of desperation; I remember the starvation.
We will talk about the truth and clear your confusion:

Your actions have created serious repercussions
And your lifestyle blinds with misconceptions,
Your desires lure you with distortions.¹

You've been sedated by physicality,
You've been numbed to spirituality,
Your heart is obstructed by impurity,²
And your thoughts, they lack clarity.

JOE

Everyone has an agenda, and an opposing idea that they squash.
Prove to me that this is more than just religious brainwash.

YOSEF

I only confirmed what's been proven time and again
And what's been taught by the wisest of men.

Everyone has some degree of obstruction.
As we're taught by King Solomon:
There is no man without transgression.³

Once you clear the haze,
Truth will shine its rays.

And once you see clearly,
You'll start to crave spirituality.

Recognizing this obstacle on your path to satisfaction
Will allow you to remove the impeding distraction.

JOE

I get that other people's lives fit with religion,
But for me it's nothing but an unnecessary addition.

YOSEF

You're not deciding between Hardens and Jordans,⁴
This is deciding between elation and ruination.

This is the guarantee from the Master of Creation!⁵
Any claim to the contrary must be considered misinformation.

JOE

When it comes to religion, people think with their emotion;
Just because it feels good doesn't make it good information.
We are drawn to where we feel an emotional connection,
So it is close to impossible to objectively examine religion.

YOSEF

Let me tell you about an incredible Chinese scholar I met in Israel.
Indifference to God and religion formed his upbringing, country, family, and social circle.

He proved his intelligence and wisdom professionally and academically.
When a missionary entered his life, he investigated Christianity.

He then turned to Islam, still searching for validity,
But each of these theologies came with another discrepancy.

JOE

Let me guess, a black kippa fit him perfectly.

YOSEF

Yes—he found Torah and discovered a unique tradition.
And the faith that has profoundness unmatched by imitation.

The only religious conviction unshaken by intellectual interrogation;
The only book containing verifiable revelations and predictions.

He employed logic, discipline, and impartiality
To escape emotion, habit, and familiarity.

JOE

How does this pertain to me?

YOSEF

We must also use objective findings
And closely monitor our biased feelings.

We must constantly train ourselves to search for the reality,
And to do so, must employ honesty, objectivity, and rationality.

JOE

Okay, now we're talking —
I'm down for searching,
Religion doesn't enjoy questioning.

YOSEF

Some of our questions are unanswerable,
But our forefathers witnessed the undeniable
And cemented our faith as unshakeable.

JOE

Our forefathers lived so long ago, what do they know?
We live in modern times; didn't you get the memo?
We don't need that old currency; now we've got crypto.

better than both is one who can seize the moment. Only with foresight can one see the future, only in retrospect can one appreciate the past, while the consequences are real. There is a void that seems filled when one speaks ill of another, but the void is an illusion, the more others will see the beauty in you, the more you look for the beauty in others, the more you could have said more, more often you should have said less. Often you could have said more, more often you should have said less.