

# **Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat**

(Abridged version 1990 edition)

## **1. Jacob & Sons**

Way, way back many centuries ago,  
Not long after the Bible began  
Jacob lived in the land of Canaan,  
A fine example of a family man.  
Jacob, Jacob and sons,  
Depended on farming to earn their keep.  
Jacob, Jacob and sons,  
Spent all of the day in the fields with sheep.

Reuben was the eldest of the children of Israel  
With Simeon and Levi the next in line  
Naphtali and Isachar with Asher and Dan  
Zebulun and Gad took the total to nine  
Jacob, Jacob and sons,  
Benjamin and Judah, which leaves only one  
Jacob, Jacob and sons,  
Joseph, who was Jacob's favourite son  
Jacob, Jacob, Jacob and sons  
Jacob, Jacob, Jacob and sons  
Jacob, Jacob, Jacob and sons  
Jacob, Jacob, Jacob and sons.

## **2. Joseph's Coat**

Joseph, He was Jacob's fav'rite son,  
Of all the family Joseph was the special one  
So Jacob bought his son a coat  
A multi-coloured coat to wear

Joseph's coat was elegant, the cut was fine  
The tasteful style was the ultimate in good design  
And this is why it caught the eye  
A king would stop and stare  
And when Joseph tried it on  
He knew his sheepskin days were gone

Such a dazzling coat of many colours  
How he loved his coat of many colours  
In a class above the rest  
It even went well with his vest  
Such a stunning coat of many colours  
How he loved his coat of many colours  
It was red and yellow and green and brown and blue.

Joseph's brothers weren't too pleased with what they saw  
They had never liked him all that much before  
And now this coat had got their goat  
They felt life was unfair

And when Joseph graced the scene  
His brothers turned a shade of green  
His astounding clothing took the biscuit  
Quite the smoothest person in the district  
He looked handsome, He looked smart  
He was a walking work of art  
Such a dazzling coat of many colours  
How He loved his coat of many colours

It was red and yellow and green and brown  
And scarlet and black and ochre and peach  
And ruby and olive and violet and fawn  
And lilac and gold and chocolate and mauve  
And cream and crimson and silver and rose  
And azure and lemon and russet and grey  
And purple and white and pink and orange and blue.

### **3. Joseph's Dreams.**

Joseph's coat annoyed his brothers  
But what made them mad  
Were the things that Joseph told them of the  
Dreams he'd often had.

I dreamt that in the fields one day,  
At corn collecting time  
Your eleven sheaves of corn  
All turned and bowed to mine

And then I saw eleven stars,  
The sun and moon and sky  
Bowing down before my star,  
It made me wonder why.

The dreams were more than crystal clear,  
The writing on the wall  
Meant that Joseph some day soon  
Would rise above them all.  
The accuracy of the dreams  
The brothers did not know  
But one thing they were sure about  
The dreamer had to go.

## **4. Poor, Poor Joseph.**

Next day, far from home,  
The brothers planned the repulsive crime  
Let us grab him now,  
And do him in while we've got the time.  
This they did and made the most of it  
Stole his coat and flung him in pit

Let us leave him here,  
The Brothers said, and he's bound to die.  
When some Ishmaelites,  
A hairy crew, came riding by  
In a flash the brothers changed their plan  
We need cash let's sell him if we can

Poor, poor Joseph, what'cha gonna do?  
Things look bad for you, hey, what'cha gonna do?  
Poor, poor Joseph, what'cha gonna do?  
Things look bad for you, hey, what'cha gonna do?

Could you use a slave?  
The Brothers said to the Ishmaelites.  
Young, strong, well-behaved,  
Going cheap and he reads and writes

In a trice the dirty deal was done  
Silver coins for Jacob's fav'rite son.

So the Ishmaelites  
Galloped off with a slave in tow,  
Rode to Egypt where Joseph was not keen to go.

He was right they put him up for sale;  
In the end they threw him into jail.

Poor, poor Joseph, locked up in a cell,  
Things aren't going well, hey, locked up in a cell.  
Poor, poor Joseph, locked up in a cell,  
Things aren't going well, hey, locked up in a cell.

## **5. Close every door to me**

Close every door to me,  
Hide all the world from me  
Bar all the windows and shut out the light  
Do what you want with me,  
Hate me and laugh at me  
Darken my daytime and torture my night  
If my life were important I would ask will I live or die  
But I know the answers lie far from this world.

Close every door to me,  
Keep those I love from me  
Children of Israel are never alone.  
For I know I shall find my own peace of mind  
For I have been promised a land of my own.

## **6. Poor, Poor Pharaoh.**

Meanwhile in his bed, Pharaoh had an uneasy night.  
He had had a dream that pinned him to his sheets with fright.  
No-one knew the meaning of the dream.  
What to do? Whatever could it mean?

Then some lively lad said he knew of a bloke in jail  
Who was hot on dreams and could explain old Pharaoh's tale.

Pharaoh said, fetch this Joseph man, I need him to help me if he can.

Poor, poor Pharaoh, what'cha gonna do?  
Dreams are haunting you, hey, what'cha gonna do?

Poor, poor Pharaoh, what'cha gonna do?  
Dreams are haunting you, hey, what'cha gonna do?

## **7. Joseph before the King.**

Chained and Bound, afraid, alone,  
Joseph stood before the throne.  
My service to Pharaoh has begun,  
Tell me your problems, mighty one.

## **8. Song of the King.**

I was wandering along the banks of the river  
When seven fat cows came out of the Nile, uh-huh, huh  
*(Bop-shu-wah-doo-wah, Bop, Bop-shu-wah-doo-wah)*  
And right behind these fine healthy animals  
Came seven other cows that were skinny and vile, uh-huh, huh  
*(Bop-shu-wah-doo-wah, Bop, Bop-shu-wah-doo-wah)*  
The thin cows ate the fat cows which I  
Thought would do them good, uh-huh, huh  
*(Bop-shu-wah-doo-wah, Bop, Bop-shu-wah-doo-wah)*  
But it didn't make them fatter like such  
A monster supper should  
*(Bop-shu-wah-doo-wah, Bop, Bop-shu-wah)*

The thin cows were as thin  
As they had ever, ever, ever, ever been.  
This dream has got me baffled,  
Hey, Joseph, what does it mean?  
Hey Joseph, won't you tell poor old Pharaoh,  
What does it mean?

## **9. Pharaoh's Number Two**

Seven years of bumper crops and endless food are on the way,  
Everything you plant will grow from avocado pears to hay.  
After that a ghastly time when food supplies will quickly fall,  
Seven years of famine when your crops will hardly grow at all.

Pharaoh thought, Well bless my soul, this Joseph is a clever kid  
Who'd have thought that fourteen cows could mean the things he said they did?  
Joseph, you must help me further; I have got a job for you  
You shall lead us through this crisis - you shall be my number two.

Joseph, Joseph, Pharaoh's number two  
Joseph, Joseph, Egypt looks to you

Ah..... Ah.....

Seven summers on the trot were perfect just as Joseph said  
Joseph saw that food was gathered ready for the years ahead  
Seven years of famine followed, Egypt did not mind a bit  
The first recorded rationing in history was a hit.

## **10. Meanwhile Back in Canaan**

Back in Canaan the future looked rough (clap)  
Jacob's family were finding it tough (clap)

For the famine had caught them all unprepared  
They were thin, They were ill, They were getting scared

In the end they decided to go (clap)  
Off to Egypt to see brother Jo.

So they all lay before Joseph's feet (clap)  
Mighty prince, give us something to eat (clap)

Joseph found it a strain not to laugh because  
Not a brother among them knew who he was.

I shall now take them all for a ride (clap)  
After all they had tried fratricide.

Joseph handed them sack loads of food (clap)  
And they grovelled with base gratitude (clap)

Then, unseen, Joseph nipped out around the back  
And planted a cup in young Benjamin's sack.

When the brothers were ready to go (clap)  
Joseph turned to them all with a terrible stare and said,  
'No, No, No, No!

## **11. Who's the thief?**

Joseph started searching through his brother's sacks  
Everyone was nervous, no-one could relax

Who's the thief? Who's the thief?  
Who's the thief? Who's the thief?

Is it Reuben? No. Is it Simeon? No.  
Is it Naphtali? No. Is it Dan? No.  
Is it Asher? No. Is it Isachar? No.  
Is it Levi? No. Who's the man?  
Is it Zebulun? No. Is it Gad? No.  
Is it Judah? No. Is it him?

Could it be, could it be  
Could it be, could it be  
Could it be, could it be  
Could it possibly be Benjamin?  
Yes. Yes. Yes.

Every brother cried, How can this be true?  
Every-one was keen to clear the youngest brother's name.  
Benjamin's a child, honest through and through  
Punish us instead of him, for we are guilty,  
We're the ones to blame.

## **12 Joseph all the time.**

And Joseph knew by this his brothers now were honest men  
The time had come at last to reunite them all again.

Can't you recognise my face, is it hard to see  
That Joseph, who you thought was dead,  
your brother is me?

Joseph, Joseph, is it really true?  
Joseph, Joseph, is it really you?

Joseph, Joseph.

## **13. Jacob in Egypt.**

So Jacob came to Egypt,  
No longer feeling old,  
And Joseph came to meet him  
In his chariot of gold  
Of gold  
Of gold  
Of gold.

## **14. Any Dream Will Do.**

I closed my eyes, drew back the curtain,  
To see for certain what I thought I knew.  
Far, far away, someone was weeping  
But the world was sleeping  
Any dream will do.

I wore my coat, with golden lining,  
Bright colours shining, wonderful and new.  
And in the east, the dawn was breaking,  
And the world was waking,  
Any dream will do

A crash of drums,  
A flash of light,  
My golden cloak flew out of sight,  
The colours faded into darkness  
I was left alone

May I return to the beginning  
The light is dimming,  
and the dream is too  
The world and I, we are still waiting  
Still hesitating,  
any dream will do

Give me my coloured coat,  
My amazing coloured coat.  
Give me my coloured coat,  
My amazing coloured coat.