

SPIRITUAL TASK —JACOB’S SONS (Genesis 37)

by the Rev. David Roth at the New Church of Boulder Valley

Story Joseph, Jacob’s eleventh and most favored son, was given a tunic of many colors. His brothers were jealous and angry. He also told them dreams he had had that figuratively indicated that they and his parents would bow down to him. They disliked him even more and plotted to kill him. They stripped him of his garments, threw him into a pit, and he was sold into slavery.

Meaning Jacob pictures the natural level of our mind. His older sons picture factual truths of faith that we know. Joseph pictures true wisdom, or rather, the attempt to make that reign in our lives—the presence of the Lord within us. It is often met with disdain because it asks us to move away from being in our heads and having an intellectual faith to living from love and kindness—our heart and mind working as one.

Task This week try to make a shift in the way you make decisions about things you will do. Instead of asking “Am I right?” ask, “Am I being useful. Am I acting in an appropriate manner?” As we read today in Arcana Coelestia 10227, “By the capacity to be wise is the capacity to discern what is true and good, to choose what is suitable, and to apply it to the uses of life.”