

Chapter 39

Iofeph being in great credite with his maifter, hath the whole charge of his houfe. 7. Contemning his myftris follicitation to incontinencie, 13. is fallly accused by her to his maifter: 20. and caft into prifon, 21. where againe he getteth credite, and hath the charge of al the prifoners.

Therfore Iofeph was brought into Ægypt, and Putiphar an Eunich of Pharao, prince of his armie, a man of Ægypt bought him, at the hand of the Ifmaelites, by whom he was brought. ² And ^aour Lord was with him, and he was a man that in al things did prosperoufly: and he dwelt in his maifters houfe, ³ who knewe verie wel that our Lord was with him, and that al thinges which he did, were directed by him in his hand. ⁴ And Iofeph found grace before his maifter, and miniftred to him: by whom being made ruler ouer al his thinges, he gouerned the houfe committed to him, and al thinges that were deliuered vnto him: ⁵ ^band our Lord bleffed the houfe of the Ægyptian for Iofephes fake, and multiplied as wel in houfes, as in landes al his fubftance. ⁶ Neither knew he any other thing, but the bread which he did eate. And Iofeph was of beautiful countenance, and comely fauored to behold. ⁷ After manie dayes therefore his maiftrefse caft her eyes on Iofeph, and faid: Sleepe with me. ⁸ Who ^cin no wife affenting to that wicked act, faid to her: Behold, my maifter hauing deliuered al thinges vnto me, knoweth not what he hath in his owne houfe: ⁹ neither is there any thing which is not in my power, or that he hath not deliuered to me, befide thee, that art his wife: ^dhow therefore can I do this wicked thing, and finne againft

^a Iofeph endued with al vertues was a fpecial mirrour of chaftitie. *S. Amb. li. de Iofeph. c. 1.*

^b The foure cardinal vertues reigned in him.

^c Temperance.

^d Iuftice.

my God? ¹⁰ With theſe kinde of wordes ^a)day by day both the woman was importune vpon the young man: and he refuſed the aduoutrie. ¹¹ And it chanced on a certaine day, that Iofeph went into the houſe, and did ſome buſineſſe without anie man with him: ¹² and ſhe catching the ſkirte of his garment, ſaid: Sleepe with me. Who ^b)leauing the cloke in her hand, fled, and went forth abroad. ¹³ And when the woman ſawe the garment in her handes, and her ſelfe to be contemned, ¹⁴ ſhe called to her the men of her houſe, and ſaid to them: See he hath brought in an Hebrew, to delude vs: he came vpon me, for to lie with me: and when I had cried out, ¹⁵ and he heard my voice, he left the cloake that I held, and fled forth. ¹⁶ For an argument therfore of her credite, ſhe referued the cloake, and ſhewed it to her huſband returning home, ¹⁷ and ſaid: There came vnto me the Hebrew ſeruant, whom thou dideſt bring hither, for to delude me: ¹⁸ and when he heard me crie, he left the cloke which I held, and fled forth. ¹⁹ His maiſter hearing theſe thinges, and geuing ouer light credite to his wiues wordes, was very wrath: ²⁰ and deliuered Iofeph into priſon, where the kinges priſoners were kept, and he was there ſhut vp. ²¹ And ^c)our Lord was with Iofeph, and hauing mercie vpon him gaue him grace in the fight of the chiefe of the priſon. ²² Who deliuered in his hand al the priſoners that were kept in cuſtodie: and whatſoever was done, was vnder him. ²³ Neyther did himſelfe knowe any thing, hauing committed al things to him: for our Lord was with him, and directed al his workes.

^a Fortitude.

^b Prudence.

^c God is more ſpecially with his ſeruants in affliction then in proſperitie. *S. Amb. li. de Iofeph. c. 5.*