

## 誰がヨセフを？：創世記37章28節の解釈

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**ABSTRACT** Yoshinobu ENDO, “Who did what?: An Interpretation on Genesis 37:28”. In Gen.37:28 the subject of each of the two Hebrew verbs is ambiguous: it is unclear not only who sold Joseph to the Ishmaelites, but also who in fact pulled him up out of the pit. While several translations consider the subject of those verbs to be Joseph’s brothers, some take it as “Midianites,” postulating “Ishmaelites” as a different clan. However, based on Judg.8:24, one could argue (with Ibn Ezra, etc.) that while “Midianites” is an ethnic name, “Ishmaelites” is used as an epithet for nomadic traders. This accords with 45:4-5 and 50:17-21. Longacre supports this with a view that the caravan, first sighted afar off as generally Ishmaelite proves on closer inspection to be Midianite, and Joseph is sold to them. The occurrence of **וַיִּמְדּוּ** with the definite article in 37:36 may also prove that those two names point to the same referent. The fact that Reuben alone rent his clothes might imply that the other brothers directly committed the crime. Moreover, **וְהָיָה** as a stated accusative, not an anaphoric pronoun or the technique of “double-duty,” is employed in three consecutive clauses. This may indicate that the clauses do not construct compound sentences with the following clause, but stand as self-sufficient sentences (with a subject-switching) except for the first clause (Note that two verbs in the second clause form a complex link.). Thus the verse might be translated as follows: “And Midianite traders passed by, and they (Midianite / brothers) pulled Joseph up out of the pit. Then they (brothers) sold Joseph for twenty pieces of silver to the Ishmaelites. Thus they (Ishmaelites) brought Joseph to Egypt.”