Torah Portion of Vayechi

“Eating Holy Food in a Holy Way”

By Rabbi Julian Sinclair

The sources are presented in the order they appear in the commentary.

(Unless otherwise noted, all English Translations from Judaica Press, available online at www.chabad.org)

**Genesis 49:11**

He binds his foal to a vine, and to a tendril [he binds] his young donkey. [He launders] his garment with wine, and with the blood of grapes binds his raiment.

Rashi- Genesis 49:11

He prophesied concerning the land of Judah [namely] that wine will flow like a fountain from it. One Judahite man will bind one foal to a vine and load it from one vine, and from one tendril [he will load] one young donkey. — [From Gen. Rabbah 98:9]

**Genesis 49:13**

Zebulun will dwell on the coast of the seas; he [will be] at the harbor of the ships, and his boundary will be at Zidon.

Rashi- Gen. 49:13

Zebulun will dwell on the coast of the seas. Heb. סְפָּרִי. His land will be on the seacoast. סְפָּרִי is as the Targum renders: סְפָּרִי, marche in Old French, borderland. He will constantly frequent the harbor of the ships, in the place of the port, where the ships bring merchandise, for Zebulun would engage in commerce and provide food for the tribe of Issachar, and they (the tribe of Issachar) would engage in [the study of] Torah. That is [the meaning of] what Moses said, "Rejoice, O Zebulun, in your going forth, and Issachar, in your tents" (Deut. 33:18) Zebulun would go forth [to engage] in commerce, and Issachar would engage in [the study of] Torah in tents. — [From Tanchuma Vayechi 11]
Genesis 49:15
He saw a resting place, that it was good, and the land, that it was pleasant, and he bent his shoulder to bear [burdens], and he became an indentured laborer.

Rashi - Genesis 49:15
He saw a resting place, that it was good He saw that his territory was a blessed and good land for producing fruits. — [From Targum Onkelos, Bereshith Rabbathi]

Babylonian Talmud-Tractate Megila 6:a
Zebulun complained to the Holy One, blessed be he, saying: Sovereign of the Universe, to my brethren Thou hast given fields and vineyards and to me Thou hast given hills and mountains; to my brethren Thou hast given lands, and to me Thou hast given lakes and rivers. [God] replied: They will all require thee for the hilazon, as it says, and the hidden treasures of the sand, and R. Joseph learnt: ‘Hidden’ indicates the hilazon; ‘treasures’ indicates the tunny fish; ‘sand’ indicates white glass.
(translation - Judaica Classics Library)

Babylonian Talmud-Tractate Ketubot 111:b
And in case you should think that it is tasteless it was expressly stated, His eyes shall be red with wine, any palate that will taste it says, ‘To me, to me’.
(transation - Judaica Classics Library)