

"Yisacher, an agile beast (donkey) of burden, rests between the borders." (49:14)

The analogy between Yisachar's ability to bear the load of a donkey, is intended as a unique lesson for one who devotes himself to *Torah* study. The donkey, in contrast to a horse, rests with its load on its back since it has the ability to rest in position with its complete load tied on. The horse however, must have its load removed so that it can move around and relax.

The tribe of Yisacher symbolizes the Jew who devotes himself to the diligent study of *Torah*. The great test for a *Ben Torah* comes when he feels he must rest and "take a vacation". If during this time of leisure he still remains stalwart in maintaining the yoke of *Torah* he then confirms his status as a true *Ben Torah*. However, one who cannot relax unless he removes his "load" may not carry the mantle of a *Ben Torah*.

cuy jek yuekh