

Examples of the challenge of translating Genesis 49

NRSV	Crouch's version
<p>22 Joseph is a fruitful bough, a fruitful bough by a spring; his branches run over the wall.</p> <p>23 The archers fiercely attacked him; they shot at him and pressed him hard.</p> <p>24 Yet his bow remained taut, and his arms were made agile by the hands of the Mighty One of Jacob, by the name of the Shepherd, the Rock of Israel,</p> <p>25 by the God of your father, who will help you, by the Almighty who will bless you with blessings of heaven above, blessings of the deep that lies beneath, blessings of the breasts and of the womb.</p> <p>26 The blessings of your father are stronger than the blessings of the eternal mountains, the bounties of the everlasting hills; may they be on the head of Joseph, on the brow of him who was set apart from his brothers.</p>	<p>22 Joseph is a son of the Euphrates! A son of the Euphrates beside a spring, daughters walking alongside a stream.</p> <p>23 They resented him and contended; lords of arrows bore a grudge against him.</p> <p>24 His bow persevered, the strength of his hands quick-moving: greater than the mighty hands of Jacob, than the shepherd's name, the stone of Israel.</p> <p>25 From the God of your father, who helps you, and of Shadday, who blesses you: Blessings of heaven above, Blessings of the deep that rests beneath, Blessings of breasts and womb.</p> <p>26 The blessings of your father have prevailed over the blessings of the one who bore me,(whilst) longing for the everlasting height. They shall be upon the head of Joseph and upon the brow of the one set apart from his brothers.</p>
<p>8 Judah, your brothers shall praise you; your hand shall be on the neck of your enemies; your father's sons shall bow down before you.</p> <p>9 Judah is a lion's whelp; from the prey, my son, you have gone up. He crouches down, he stretches out like a lion, like a lioness--who dares rouse him up?</p> <p>10 The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until tribute comes to him; and the obedience of the peoples is his.</p> <p>11 Binding his foal to the vine and his donkey's colt to the choice vine, he washes his garments in wine and his robe in the blood of grapes;</p> <p>12 his eyes are darker than wine, and his teeth whiter than milk.</p>	<p>8 Judah – you! Your brothers will praise you, your hand is on the neck of your enemies; your father's sons will bow down to you.</p> <p>9 Judah is a lion cub: rapacious, my son, you rise. He kneels, he lies down like a lion, and like a lioness – who would rouse him?</p> <p>10 A rod will not turn aside from Judah, but that which is decreed is between his feet: a witness that he entered her skirts (whilst) she waited for him at Enaim.</p> <p>11 He binds an ass to the vine, and the offspring of a donkey to the grapevine; washes his garment with wine, and his robe with blood-red grapes.</p> <p>12 Eyes are dull from wine, and teeth white from fat</p>