

And animate him for his farewell words
To all his sons, who 'round about him stood
With bowed heads, with trembling hearts and hands,
To hear the declarations of the Lord
Relating to their life and destiny.
From Reuben down to Benjamin he spake,
And skilfully portrayed in striking lines
Their character, and vividly revealed
To each the varied things that should befall
Them and their race within the latter times.
" Reuben, thou art my first begotten son,
In strength and dignity supreme, yet thou
Shalt not excel, because irresolute
In soul, and did'st not hesitate to sin,
Nor yet to desecrate thy father's name.
Levi and Simeon are leagued as one,
And instruments of cruelty remain
In their abode. O soul of mine come not
Within their secret snares, mine honor with
Their councils be not joined; for anger caused
Their hands to slay a man, and stubborn will,
To wound their oxen in the field of toil!
Now cursed be their anger which was fierce,
In Jacob I shall all their host divide,
And scatter them abroad in Israel.
Judah, thou art the one who shall be feared
By all thy brethren now and evermore,
Thy hand shall rest upon the wilful neck

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