

GRAPES - THE WINEPRESS

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The winepress might be in the vineyard. It might be in the valley near the vineyard. Most of the grapes were hauled to the winepress.

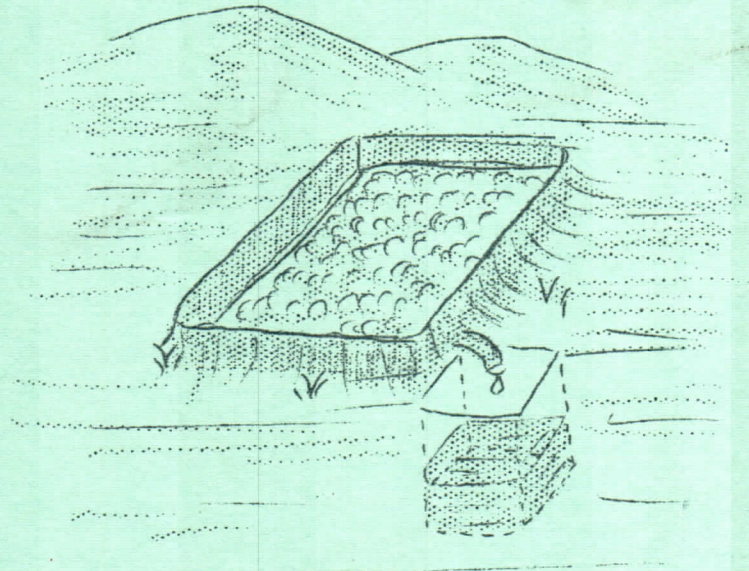
The winepress might look like a small wading pool. It was about 6 feet wide and 1 to 2 feet deep. It was cut in solid limestone. Sometimes it was a pit dug into the ground. This pit was lined with stones and a kind of concrete.

There also was a smaller pool at the side. This had to be lower than the first pool. It was also deeper.

The juice ran from the larger pool into the lower pool. There was a groove or channel to carry the juice to the smaller container.

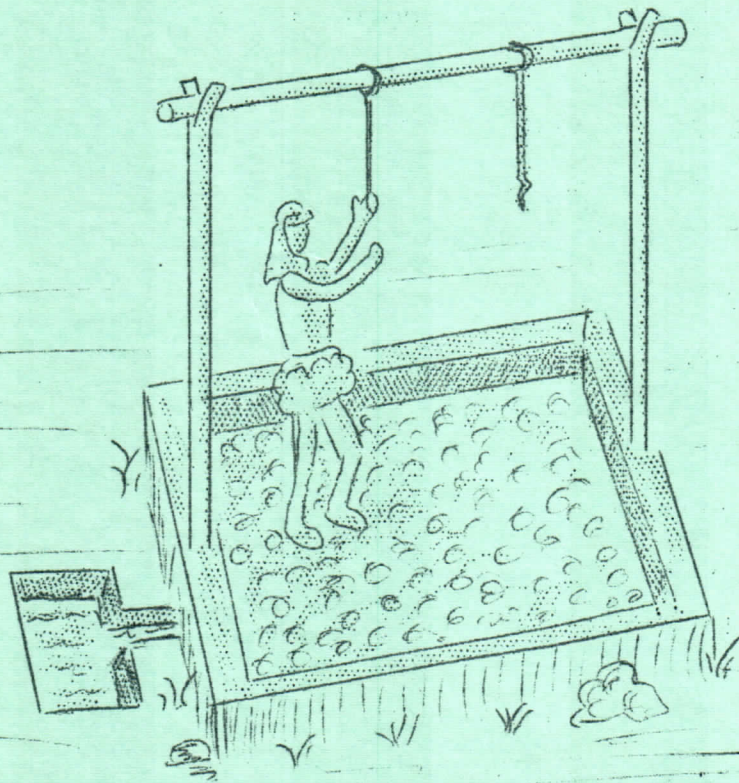
The grapes were piled about 12 inches deep in the larger pool. Barefooted men walked and jumped in the grapes. As they walked the grapes were crushed. The juice soon began to run into the smaller pool.

The crushing of the grapes could have been hard work but it was made into a happy time. Many friends came around the winepress. They all sang and shouted. The men in the grapepress sang too. Sometimes a piper played a tune to add to the happiness of everyone.



TURN CARD OVER

Sometimes the men tramping in the grapes had a rope to hang on to. This kept him from the danger of falling. Other men seemed to have carried a long pole which they used to keep from falling on the slippery grapes.



This was a happy time when many friends and helpers came to tramp on the grapes. This is why it is so sad when the prophet says about Christ,

I have trod the winepress alone. . .

(Isaiah 63:3)

No one came to share or help Him!