

¹Cast thy bread upon the waters: for thou shalt find it after many days.²Give a portion to seven, and also to eight; for thou knowest not what evil shall be upon the earth.³If the clouds be full of rain, they empty themselves upon the earth: and if the tree fall toward the south, or toward the north, in the place where the tree falleth, there it shall be.⁴He that observeth the wind shall not sow; and he that regardeth the clouds shall not reap.⁵As thou knowest not what is the way of the spirit, nor how the bones do grow in the womb of her that is with child: even so thou knowest not the works of God who maketh all.⁶In the morning sow thy seed, and in the evening withhold not thine hand: for thou knowest not whether shall prosper, either this or that, or whether they both shall be alike good.⁷Truly the light is sweet, and a pleasant thing it is for the eyes to behold the sun:⁸But if a man live many years, and rejoice in them all; yet let him remember the days of darkness; for they shall be many. All that cometh is vanity.⁹Rejoice, O young man, in thy youth; and let thy heart cheer thee in the days of thy youth, and walk in the ways of thine heart, and in the sight of thine eyes: but know thou, that for all these things God will bring thee into judgment.¹⁰Therefore remove sorrow from thy heart, and put away evil from thy flesh: for childhood and youth are vanity.

¹إِزِمْ خُبْرَكَ عَلَى وَجْهِ الْمَيَّاهِ فَإِنَّكَ تَجِدُهُ بَعْدَ أَيَّامٍ كَثِيرَةٍ.²أَعْطِ تَصِيْبًا لِسَبْعَةٍ وَلِثَمَانِيَةٍ أَيْضًا، لِأَنَّكَ لَسْتَ تَعْلَمُ أَيَّ سَرٍّ يَكُونُ عَلَى الْأَرْضِ. إِذَا ائْتَلَّتِ السُّحُبُ مَطَرًا تُرِيْقُهُ عَلَى الْأَرْضِ. وَإِذَا وَقَعَتِ الشَّجَرَةُ تَحَوُّ الْجَنُوبِ أَوْ تَحَوُّ الشَّمَالِ فَفِي الْمَوْضِعِ حَيْثُ تَقَعُ الشَّجَرَةُ هُنَاكَ تَكُونُ.⁴مَنْ يَرْصُدُ الرِّيحَ لَا يَزْرَعُ، وَمَنْ يُرَاقِبُ السُّحُبَ لَا يَحْصُدُ.⁵كَمَا أَنَّكَ لَسْتَ تَعْلَمُ مَا هِيَ طَرِيقُ الرِّيحِ، وَلَا كَيْفَ الْعِظَامُ فِي بَطْنِ الْحَبْلِ، كَذَلِكَ لَا تَعْلَمُ أَعْمَالُ اللَّهِ الَّذِي يَصْنَعُ الْجَمِيعَ.⁶فِي الصَّبَاحِ ازْرَعْ زَرْعَكَ وَفِي الْمَسَاءِ لَا تَرْخِ يَدَكَ، لِأَنَّكَ لَا تَعْلَمُ أَيُّهُمَا يَنْمُو هَذَا أَوْ ذَاكَ، أَوْ أَنْ يَكُونَ كِلَاهُمَا جَيِّدَيْنِ سَوَاءً.⁷الْتَوَرَّ خُلُوهُ، وَخَيِّرْ لِلْعَيْنَيْنِ أَنْ يَنْظُرَا الشَّمْسَ. لِأَنَّهُ إِنْ عَاشَ الْإِنْسَانُ سِنِينَ كَثِيرَةً فَلْيَفْرَحْ فِيهَا كُلِّهَا، وَلْيَتَذَكَّرْ أَيَّامَ الظُّلْمَةِ لِأَنَّهَا تَكُونُ كَثِيرَةً. كُلُّ مَا يَأْتِي بِاطِلٍ. ⁹إِفْرَحْ أَيُّهَا الشَّبَابُ فِي حَدَاتِكَ، وَلْيَسُرَّكَ قَلْبُكَ فِي أَيَّامِ شَبَابِكَ وَاسْلُكْ فِي طَرِيقِ قَلْبِكَ وَيَمْرَأَى عَيْنُكَ، وَاعْلَمْ أَنَّهُ عَلَى هَذِهِ الْأُمُورِ كُلِّهَا يَأْتِي بِكَ اللَّهُ إِلَى الدَّيْنُونَةِ.¹⁰فَانْزِعِ الْعَمَّ مِنْ قَلْبِكَ، وَأَبْعِدِ السَّرَّ عَنْ لَحْمِكَ، لِأَنَّ الْحَدَاثَةَ وَالشَّبَابَ بِاطِلَانٍ.