

1¹الْإِنْسَانُ مَوْلُودٌ الْمَرْأَةَ قَلِيلُ الْيَّامِ وَسَبْعَانُ تَعْبًا.² يُخْرُجُ
 كَالزَّهْرِ ثُمَّ يَذْوِي، وَيَبْرُخُ كَالطَّلِّ وَلَا يَقِفُ.³ قَعْلَى مِنْلِ
 هَذَا حَدَقْتُ عَيْنِيكَ، وَإِبَائِي أَحْضَرْتُ إِلَى الْمُحَاكَمَةِ
 مَعَكَ.⁴ مَنْ يَخْرُجُ الطَّاهِرَ مِنَ الْجَسِ. لَا أَخَذُ.⁵ إِنْ كَانَتْ
 أَبَامُهُ مَحْدُودَةً وَعَدَدْتُ أَشْهُرِهِ عِنْدَكَ وَقَدْ عَيَّيْتُ أَجَلَهُ فَلَا
 يَتَجَاوَزُهُ،⁶ فَأَقْصِرْ عَنْهُ لِيَسْتَرِيحَ، إِلَى أَنْ يُسَرَّ كَالْأَجِيرِ
 بِانْتِهَاءِ يَوْمِهِ.⁷ لَأَنَّ لِلشَّجَرَةِ رَجَاءً. إِنْ قُطِعَتْ تُخْلِفُ أَيْضًا
 وَلَا تُعْذَمُ أَغْصَانُهَا.⁸ وَلَوْ قَدَّمَ فِي الْأَرْضِ أَصْلُهَا وَمَاتَ فِي
 الشَّرَابِ جَذْعُهَا،⁹ فَمِنْ رَائِحَةِ الْمَاءِ تُفْرِخُ وَتُثْبِتُ فُرُوعًا
 كَالْعَرَسِ.¹⁰ أَمَّا الرَّجُلُ فَيَمُوتُ وَيَبْلَى. الْإِنْسَانُ يُسْلِمُ
 الرُّوحَ، فَأَيْنَ هُوَ.¹¹ قَدْ تَقَعَّدَ الْمَيَّاهُ مِنَ الْبَحْرِ، وَاللَّهُرُ
 يَنْشَفُ وَيَجِفُ،¹² وَالْإِنْسَانُ يَصْطَلِجُ وَلَا يَقُومُ. لَا
 يَسْتَقِطُونَ حَتَّى لَا تَبْقَى السَّمَاوَاتُ وَلَا يَنْتَبِهُونَ مِنْ
 تَوْمِهِمْ.¹³ لَيْتَكَ تُوَارِيَنِي فِي الْهَآوَةِ وَتُخْفِيَنِي إِلَى أَنْ
 يَنْصَرِفَ غَضَبُكَ، وَتُعَيِّنَ لِي أَجَلًا فَتَذْكُرْنِي.¹⁴ إِنْ مَاتَ
 رَجُلٌ أَقْبَحًا. كُلَّ أَيَّامٍ جِهَادِي أَصِيرُ إِلَى أَنْ يَأْتِيَ
 بَدَلِي.¹⁵ تَدْعُو قَاتَا أَجِينِكَ. تَسْتَأْثِرُ إِلَى عَمَلِ يَدِكَ.¹⁶ أَمَّا
 الْآنَ فَتُخْصِي خُطَايَايَ. أَلَا تُخَافِطُ عَلَيَّ
 حَاطِيَتِي.¹⁷ مَعْصِيَتِي مَحْنُومٌ عَلَيْهَا فِي ضَرْبَةٍ، وَتُلْقَى عَلَيَّ
 فَوْقَ إِيْمِي.¹⁸ إِنَّ الْجَبَلَ السَّاقِطَ يَنْتَبِرُ، وَالصَّخْرَ يَرْخَرُ
 مِنْ مَكَانِهِ.¹⁹ الْجَارَةُ تَلِيهَا الْمَيَّاهُ، وَتَجْرُفُ سُبُلُهَا تُرَابَ
 الْأَرْضِ. وَكَذَلِكَ أَنْتَ تُبِيدُ رَجَاءَ الْإِنْسَانِ.²⁰ تَتَجَبَّرُ عَلَيْهِ أَبَدًا
 فَيَذْهَبُ. نُسُوءُهُ وَجْهُهُ وَتَطْرُدُهُ.²¹ يَكْرُمُ بَنُوهُ وَلَا يَعْلَمُ، أَوْ
 يَصْغُرُونَ وَلَا يَفْهَمُ بِهِمْ.²² إِنَّمَا عَلَى دَائِهِ يَتَوَجَّعُ لَحْمُهُ
 وَعَلَى دَائِهَا تُنُوحُ نَفْسُهُ.

1¹Man that is born of a woman is of few days, and full of trouble.²He cometh forth like a flower, and is cut down: he fleeth also as a shadow, and continueth not.³And dost thou open thine eyes upon such an one, and bringest me into judgment with thee?⁴Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean? not one.⁵Seeing his days are determined, the number of his months are with thee, thou hast appointed his bounds that he cannot pass;⁶Turn from him, that he may rest, till he shall accomplish, as an hireling, his day.⁷For there is hope of a tree, if it be cut down, that it will sprout again, and that the tender branch thereof will not cease.⁸Though the root thereof wax old in the earth, and the stock thereof die in the ground;⁹Yet through the scent of water it will bud, and bring forth boughs like a plant.¹⁰But man dieth, and wasteth away: yea, man giveth up the ghost, and where is he?¹¹As the waters fail from the sea, and the flood decayeth and drieth up:¹²So man lieth down, and riseth not: till the heavens be no more, they shall not awake, nor be raised out of their sleep.¹³O that thou wouldest hide me in the grave, that thou wouldest keep me secret, until thy wrath be past, that thou wouldest appoint me a set time, and remember me!¹⁴If a man die, shall he live again? all the days of my appointed time will I wait, till my change come.¹⁵Thou shalt call, and I will answer thee: thou wilt have a desire to the work of thine hands.¹⁶For now thou numberest my steps: dost thou not watch over my sin?¹⁷My transgression is sealed up in a bag, and thou sewest up mine

iniquity.¹⁸ And surely the mountain falling cometh to nought, and the rock is removed out of his place.¹⁹ The waters wear the stones: thou wastest away the things which grow out of the dust of the earth; and thou destroyest the hope of man.²⁰ Thou prevailest for ever against him, and he passeth: thou changest his countenance, and sendest him away.²¹ His sons come to honour, and he knoweth it not; and they are brought low, but he perceiveth it not of them.²² But his flesh upon him shall have pain, and his soul within him shall mourn.