

¹فَأَجَابَ أَلِيفَازُ التِّمَانِيُّ،² أَلَعَلَّ الْحَكِيمَ يُجِيبُ عَنْ مَعْرِفَةِ
بَاطِلَةٍ وَيَمْلَأُ بَطْنَهُ مِنْ رِيحِ شَرْفِيَّةٍ،³ فَيَحْتَجَّ بِكَلَامٍ لَا يُفِيدُ
وَيَأْخِذُ لَا يَنْتَفِعُ بِهَا.⁴ أَمَّا أَنْتَ فَتَتَأَفَّى الْمَخَافَةَ وَتُقْصِرُ
التَّقْوَى لَدَى اللَّهِ.⁵ لِأَنَّ فَمَكَ يَذِيعُ إِنْثَمَكَ وَتَحْتَازُ لِسَانَ
الْمُخْتَالِينَ.⁶ إِنَّ فَمَكَ يَسْتَذِينُكَ، لَا أَنَا، وَشَفَقَاتِكَ تَسْهَدَانِ
عَلَيْكَ.⁷ أَصَوَّرْتُ أَوَّلَ النَّاسِ أَمْ أَبَدْنْتَ قَبْلَ التَّلَالِ.⁸ هَلْ
أَصْعَيْتَ فِي مَجْلِسِ اللَّهِ، أَوْ قَصَرْتَ الْحِكْمَةَ عَلَى
نَفْسِكَ.⁹ مَاذَا تَعْرِفُهُ وَلَا تَعْرِفُهُ تَحْنُ، وَمَاذَا تَفْهَمُ وَلَيْسَ
هُوَ عِنْدَنَا.¹⁰ عِنْدَنَا الشَّيْخُ وَالْأَشِيبُ، أَكْثَرُ آبَاءَ مِنْ
أَيْكَ.¹¹ أَقْلِيلُهُ عِنْدَكَ تَغْرِيبَاتُ اللَّهِ وَالْكَلامُ مَعَكَ
بِالرَّقِيِّ.¹² لِمَاذَا تَأْخُذُكَ قُلُوبُكَ، وَلِمَاذَا تَحْتَلِجُ عَيْنَاكَ¹³ حَتَّى
تَرُدَّ عَلَى اللَّهِ وَتُخْرِجَ مِنْ فَمِكَ أَقْوَالًا.¹⁴ مَنْ هُوَ الْإِنْسَانُ
جَنَى يَرْكُوْ أَوْ مَوْلُودُ الْمَرْأَةِ حَتَّى يَتَبَرَّرَ.¹⁵ هُوَذَا قَدِّسُوهُ لَا
يَأْمِيهِمْ، وَالسَّمَاوَاتُ غَيْرُ طَاهِرَةٍ بِعَيْنَيْهِ.¹⁶ فَيَا لِحَرْيٍ
مَكْرُوهٍ وَفَاسِدِ الْإِنْسَانِ الشَّارِبِ الْإِنِّمَ كَالْمَاءِ.¹⁷ أَيْيُنْ لَكَ.
اسْمَعْ لِي فَأَحْذَثْ بِمَا رَأَيْتُهُ.¹⁸ مَا أَخْبَرَ بِهِ حُكَمَاءُ عَنْ
آبَائِهِمْ فَلَمْ يَكْنُموهُ.¹⁹ الَّذِينَ لَهُمْ وَحْدَهُمْ أُعْطِيَتْ الْأَرْضُ
وَلَمْ يَغْنُ بِبَنِيهِمْ غَرِيبٌ.²⁰ السَّرِيرُ هُوَ يَتَلَوَّى كُلُّ آبَائِهِمْ وَكُلُّ
عَدَدِ السِّنِينَ الْمَعْدُودَةِ لِلْعَايَةِ.²¹ صَوْتُ دُرُغُوبٍ فِي أُذُنَيْهِ.
فِي سَاعَةِ سَلَامٍ يَأْتِيهِ الْمُحَرَّبُ.²² لَا يَأْمُلُ الرُّجُوعَ مِنَ
الطَّلَمَةِ وَهُوَ مُرْتَقِبٌ لِلسَّيْفِ.²³ تَأْتِيهِ هُوَ لِأَجْلِ الْخُبْرِ حَيْثُمَا
يَجِدُهُ، وَيَعْلَمُ أَنَّ يَوْمَ الطَّلَمَةِ مُهَيَّأٌ بَيْنَ يَدَيْهِ.²⁴ يُرْهِبُهُ
الصُّرُّ وَالصِّيْقُ. يَتَجَبَّرَانِ عَلَيْهِ كَمَلِكٍ مُسْتَعِدٍّ
لِلْوَعَى.²⁵ لِأَنَّهُ مَدَّ عَلَى اللَّهِ يَدَهُ، وَعَلَى الْقَدِيرِ
تَجَبَّرَ هَاجِمًا عَلَيْهِ، مُنْصَلِّبُ الْعُنُقِ يَنْزُوسِهِ
الْعَلِيطَةِ.²⁷ لِأَنَّهُ قَدْ كَسَا وَجْهَهُ سَمْنًا وَرَبَّى سَخْمًا عَلَى
كُلَيْتَيْهِ²⁸ فَيَسْكُنُ مُدْنَاً خَرِبَةً، يُبُونَا غَيْرَ مَسْكُونَةٍ عَيْنِدَهُ أَنْ
تَصِيرَ رُجْمًا.²⁹ لَا يَسْتَعْنِي وَلَا تَنْبُتُ تَرْوُثُهُ وَلَا يَمُدُّ فِي
الْأَرْضِ مُقْتَاتَهُ.³⁰ لَا تَزُولُ عَنْهُ الطَّلَمَةُ. أَعْصَانُهُ تُبْسِئُهَا
السَّمُومُ، وَتَنْفَخُ فِيهِ بُرُولٌ.³¹ لَا يَبْكُلُ عَلَى الشُّوءِ.
يَصِلُ. لِأَنَّ الشُّوءَ يَكُونُ أَجْرَتَهُ.³² قَبْلَ يَوْمِهِ يَتَوَقَّى،
وَسَعْفُهُ لَا يَخْصُرُ.³³ يَسَاقِطُ كَالْكَرْمَةِ حَصْرِمَهُ، وَيَهْتَرُ
كَالرَّبِّبُونَ زَهْرَهُ.³⁴ لِأَنَّ جَمَاعَةَ الْفَجَارِ غَافِرٌ، وَالنَّارُ تَأْكُلُ
خِيَامَ الرِّسْوَةِ.³⁵ حَيْلُ سَقَاوَةٍ وَوَلَدٌ إِنْمَاءً، وَبَطْنُهُ أَنْشَأَ
غَشًّا.

¹Then answered Eliphaz the Temanite, and said,² Should a wise man utter vain knowledge, and fill his belly with the east wind? Should he reason with unprofitable talk? or with speeches wherewith he can do no good?⁴ Yea, thou castest off fear, and restrainest prayer before God.⁵ For thy mouth uttereth thine iniquity, and thou chooseth the tongue of the crafty.⁶ Thine own mouth condemneth thee, and not I: yea, thine own lips testify against thee.⁷ Art thou the first man that was born? or wast thou made before the hills?⁸ Hast thou heard the secret of God? and dost thou restrain wisdom to thyself?⁹ What knowest thou, that we know not? what understandest thou, which is not in us?¹⁰ With us are both the grayheaded and very aged men, much elder than thy father.¹¹ Are the consolations of God small with thee? is there any secret thing with thee?¹² Why doth thine heart carry thee away? and what do thy eyes wink at,¹³ That thou turnest thy spirit against God, and lettest such words go out of thy mouth?¹⁴ What is man, that he should be clean? and he which is born of a woman, that he should be righteous?¹⁵ Behold, he putteth no trust in his saints; yea, the heavens are not clean in his sight.¹⁶ How much more abominable and filthy is man, which drinketh iniquity like water?¹⁷ I will shew thee, hear me; and that which I have seen I will declare;¹⁸ Which wise men have told from their fathers, and have not hid it:¹⁹ Unto whom alone the earth was given, and no stranger passed among them.²⁰ The wicked man travaileth with pain all his

days, and the number of years is hidden to the oppressor.²¹ A dreadful sound is in his ears: in prosperity the destroyer shall come upon him.²² He believeth not that he shall return out of darkness, and he is waited for of the sword.²³ He wandereth abroad for bread, saying, Where is it? he knoweth that the day of darkness is ready at his hand.²⁴ Trouble and anguish shall make him afraid; they shall prevail against him, as a king ready to the battle.²⁵ For he stretcheth out his hand against God, and strengtheneth himself against the Almighty.²⁶ He runneth upon him, even on his neck, upon the thick bosses of his bucklers:²⁷ Because he covereth his face with his fatness, and maketh collops of fat on his flanks.²⁸ And he dwelleth in desolate cities, and in houses which no man inhabiteth, which are ready to become heaps.²⁹ He shall not be rich, neither shall his substance continue, neither shall he prolong the perfection thereof upon the earth.³⁰ He shall not depart out of darkness; the flame shall dry up his branches, and by the breath of his mouth shall he go away.³¹ Let not him that is deceived trust in vanity: for vanity shall be his recompence.³² It shall be accomplished before his time, and his branch shall not be green.³³ He shall shake off his unripe grape as the vine, and shall cast off his flower as the olive.³⁴ For the congregation of hypocrites shall be desolate, and fire shall consume the tabernacles of bribery.³⁵ They conceive mischief, and bring forth vanity, and their belly prepareth deceit.