

¹فَأَجَابَ صُوفَرُ النَّعْمَاتِيِّ،² مِنْ أَجْلِ ذَلِكَ هَوَّاجِسِي
 تُجِينِي، وَلِهَذَا هَيَّجَانِي فِيَّ.³ تَغْيِيرُ تَوْبِيخِي أَسْمَعُ. وَرُوحُ
 مِنْ قَهْمِي يُجِينِي. ⁴أَمَّا عَلِمْتُ هَذَا مِنَ الْقَدِيمِ، مُنْذُ وُضِعَ
 الْإِنْسَانُ عَلَى الْأَرْضِ،⁵ أَنَّ هُتَافَ الْأَشْرَارِ مِنْ قَرِيبٍ
 وَقَرَحَ الْفَاجِرِ إِلَى لَحْطَةٍ.⁶ وَلَوْ بَلَغَ السَّمَاوَاتِ طَوْلُهُ
 وَمَسَّ رَأْسُهُ السَّحَابَ⁷ كَجَلَّتِهِ إِلَى الْأَبَدِ يَبِيدُ. الَّذِينَ رَأَوْهُ
 يَقُولُونَ، أَيْنَ هُوَ. كَالْحُلْمِ يَطِيرُ فَلَا يُوجَدُ، وَيُطْرَدُ كَطَيْفِ
 اللَّيْلِ.⁹ عَيْنٌ أَبْصَرَتْهُ لَا تَعُودُ تَرَاهُ، وَمَكَائِهِ لَنْ يَرَاهُ
 بَعْدَ.¹⁰ بَثْوُهُ يَتَرَصَّوْنَ الْفُقَرَاءَ، وَبَدَاهُ تَرْدَانِ
 تَرَوْتُهُ.¹¹ عِظَامُهُ مَلَأَتْهُ قُوَّةٌ، وَمَعَهُ فِي الثَّرَابِ
 تَصْطَجِعُ. ¹²إِنْ خَلَا فِي قِمِهِ الشَّرُّ، وَأَحْقَاهُ تَحْتَ
 لِسَانِهِ،¹³ أَشَقَقَ عَلَيْهِ وَلَمْ يَتْرُكْهُ، بَلْ حَبَسَتْهُ وَسَطَ
 حَنَكِهِ،¹⁴ فَخَبَّرُهُ فِي أَمْعَائِهِ يَبْخَوُلُ. مَرَارَةُ أَضْلَالٍ فِي
 بَطْنِهِ. ¹⁵قَدْ بَلَغَ تَرَوُهُ قَيْتَقِيَّاهَا. اللَّهُ يَطْرُدُهَا مِنْ
 بَطْنِهِ. ¹⁶سَمَّ الْأَضْلَالَ يَرْضَعُ. يَقْنُلُهُ لِسَانُ الْأَفْعَى. ¹⁷لَا يَرَى
 الْجَدَاوِلُ أَنَّهُارَ سَوَاقِي عَسَلٍ وَلَبَنٍ. ¹⁸بُرْدُ تَعْنَةٍ وَلَا يَبْلُغُهُ.
 وَيُمْكَسِبُ تِجَارَتَهُ لَا يَفْرَحُ.¹⁹ لِأَنَّهُ رَضَّصَ الْمَسَاكِينَ
 وَتَرَكَهُمْ وَاعْتَصَبَ بَيْتاً وَلَمْ يَبْنِهِ. ²⁰لَئِنَّهُ لَمْ يَعْرِفْ فِي بَطْنِهِ
 قَنَاعَةً لَا يَنْجُو بِمُسْتَهَائِهِ.²¹ لَيْسَتْ مِنْ أَكْلِهِ بَقِيَّةٌ، لِأَجْلِ
 ذَلِكَ لَا يَدُومُ خَيْرُهُ. ²²مَعَ مِلءٍ رَغْدِهِ يَتَصَاقِقُ. يَأْتِي عَلَيْهِ
 يَدُ كُلِّ سَقِيٍّ.²³ يَكُونُ عِنْدَمَا يَمْلَأُ بَطْنُهُ أَنَّ اللَّهَ يُرْسِلُ
 عَلَيْهِ حُمُوَّ عَصِيهِ، وَيُمْطِرُهُ عَلَيْهِ عِنْدَ طَعَامِهِ. ²⁴يَفِرُّ مِنْ
 سِلَاحٍ حَدِيدٍ. تَحْرِفُهُ قَوْسُ نَحَاسٍ.²⁵ جَذَبَهُ فَخَرَجَ مِنْ
 بَطْنِهِ، وَالتَّارِقُ مِنْ مَرَايَتِهِ مَرَقَ. عَلَيْهِ رُغُوبٌ. ²⁶كُلُّ
 طَلْمَةٍ مُخْتَبَأَةٍ لِدَخَائِرِهِ. تَأْكُلُهُ تَارٌ لَمْ تُنْفَخْ. تَرَعَى الْبَقِيَّةَ
 فِي حِمَمَتِهِ. ²⁷السَّمَاوَاتُ تُغْلِنُ إِنَّمَهُ وَالْأَرْضُ تَنْهَضُ
 عَلَيْهِ. ²⁸تَرُولُ غَلَّةُ بَيْتِهِ. تُهْرَاقُ فِي يَوْمِ عَصِيهِ. ²⁹هَذَا
 تَصِيبُ الْإِنْسَانِ الشَّرِّيرِ مِنْ عِنْدِ اللَّهِ، وَمِيرَاتُ أَمْرِهِ مِنَ
 الْقَدِيرِ.

¹Then answered Zophar the Naamathite, and said,²Therefore do my thoughts cause me to answer, and for this I make haste.³I have heard the check of my reproach, and the spirit of my understanding causeth me to answer.⁴Knowest thou not this of old, since man was placed upon earth,⁵That the triumphing of the wicked is short, and the joy of the hypocrite but for a moment?⁶Though his excellency mount up to the heavens, and his head reach unto the clouds;⁷Yet he shall perish for ever like his own dung: they which have seen him shall say, Where is he?⁸He shall fly away as a dream, and shall not be found: yea, he shall be chased away as a vision of the night.⁹The eye also which saw him shall see him no more; neither shall his place any more behold him.¹⁰His children shall seek to please the poor, and his hands shall restore their goods.¹¹His bones are full of the sin of his youth, which shall lie down with him in the dust.¹²Though wickedness be sweet in his mouth, though he hide it under his tongue;¹³Though he spare it, and forsake it not; but keep it still within his mouth:¹⁴Yet his meat in his bowels is turned, it is the gall of asps within him.¹⁵He hath swallowed down riches, and he shall vomit them up again: God shall cast them out of his belly.¹⁶He shall suck the poison of asps: the viper's tongue shall slay him.¹⁷He shall not see the rivers, the floods, the brooks of honey and butter.¹⁸That which he laboured for shall he restore, and shall not swallow it down: according to his substance shall the restitution be, and he shall not rejoice

therein .¹⁹ Because he hath oppressed and hath forsaken the poor; because he hath violently taken away an house which he builded not;²⁰ Surely he shall not feel quietness in his belly, he shall not save of that which he desired.²¹ There shall none of his meat be left; therefore shall no man look for his goods.²² In the fulness of his sufficiency he shall be in straits: every hand of the wicked shall come upon him.²³ When he is about to fill his belly, God shall cast the fury of his wrath upon him, and shall rain it upon him while he is eating.²⁴ He shall flee from the iron weapon, and the bow of steel shall strike him through.²⁵ It is drawn, and cometh out of the body; yea, the glittering sword cometh out of his gall: terrors are upon him.²⁶ All darkness shall be hid in his secret places: a fire not blown shall consume him; it shall go ill with him that is left in his tabernacle.²⁷ The heaven shall reveal his iniquity; and the earth shall rise up against him.²⁸ The increase of his house shall depart, and his goods shall flow away in the day of his wrath.²⁹ This is the portion of a wicked man from God, and the heritage appointed unto him by God.