

¹وَأَمَّا الْآنَ فَقَدْ صَحَكَ عَلَيَّ مَنْ يَصْغُرُنِي فِي الْيָأَمِ،
الَّذِينَ كُنْتُ أَسْتَكِفُّ مِنْ أَنْ أَجْعَلَ آبَاءَهُمْ مَعَ كِلَابِ
عَمِي. ²قُوَّةُ أَيْدِيهِمْ أَيْضاً مَا هِيَ لِي. فِيهِمْ عَجَزَتِ
السَّيْخُوخَةُ. ³فِي الْعَوَرِ وَالْمَجَاعَةِ مَهْزُولُونَ، يَتَشَبَّهُونَ
الْيَابِسَةَ الَّتِي هِيَ مِنْذُ أَمْسٍ حَرَابٌ وَحَرَبَةٌ. ⁴الَّذِينَ
يَقْطِفُونَ الْمَلَّاحَ عِنْدَ الشَّيْخِ، وَأَصُولُ الرِّثَمِ خُبْرُهُمْ. ⁵مِنْ
الْوَسْطِ يُطْرَدُونَ. يَصِيحُونَ عَلَيْهِمْ كَمَا عَلَى
لِصٍّ. ⁶لِلسَّكَنِ فِي أَوْدِيَةِ مُرْعَبَةٍ وَتُقْبِ الثَّرَابِ
وَالصُّخُورِ. ⁷بَيْنَ الشَّيْخِ يَنْهَقُونَ. تَحْتَ الْعُوسَجِ
يَنْكَبُونَ. ⁸أَبْنَاءُ الْحَمَاقَةِ، بَلْ أَبْنَاءُ آتَاسٍ يَلَا اسْمَ، دُجِرُوا
مِنْ الْأَرْضِ. ⁹أَمَّا الْآنَ قَصِرْتُ أَعْيُنُهُمْ وَأَصْبَحْتُ لَهُمْ
مَثَلًا. ¹⁰بَكَرَهُوْنِي. يَتَعِيدُونَ عَمِّي، وَأَمَامَ وَجْهِ لَمْ
يُمْسِكُوا عَنِ الْبُصْقِ. ¹¹لَأَنَّهُ أَطْلَقَ الْعَتَانَ وَقَهَرَنِي فَتَرَعُوا
الرِّزَامَ قُدَّامِي. ¹²عَنِ الْيَمِينِ السَّفَلَةُ يَقُومُونَ يُرْبِحُونَ
رَجُلِي، وَيُعِيدُونَ عَلَيَّ طَرَقَهُمْ لِلتَّوَارِ. ¹³أَفْسَدُوا سَبِيلِي.
أَعَانُوا عَلَى سُفُوطِي. لَا مُسَاعِدَ عَلَيْهِمْ. ¹⁴يَأْتُونَ كَصَدْعِ
عَرِيضٍ. تَحْتَ الْهَدَّةِ يَتَدَخَّرُونَ. ¹⁵إِنْقَلَبْتُ عَلَى أَهْوَالٍ.
طَرَدْتُ كَالرَّيْحِ نِعْمَتِي، فَعَبَرْتُ كَالسَّحَابِ
سَعَادَتِي. ¹⁶فَالآنَ انْهَالَتْ نَفْسِي عَلَيَّ وَأَخَذْتَنِي أَيَّامُ
الْمَدْلَةِ. ¹⁷اللَّيْلُ يَنْخَرُ عِظَامِي فِيَّ، وَعَارِفِي لَا
تَهْجَعُ. ¹⁸يَكْتَرَةُ السِّدَّةُ تَنْكُرُ لِنَفْسِي. مِنْ لَبِ جَيْبِ قَمِيصِي
خَرَمْنِي. ¹⁹قَدْ طَرَحْنِي فِي الْوَحْلِ فَأَسْبَهْتُ الثَّرَابَ
وَالرَّمَادَ. ²⁰إِنَّكَ أَصْرُخُ قَمَا تَسْتَجِيبُ لِي. أَقُومُ قَمَا تَنْتَبِهُ
إِلَيَّ. ²¹تَحَوَّلْتُ إِلَى جَافٍ مِنْ تَحْوِي. يُفْذَرَةُ يَدِكَ
تَصْطَهْدُنِي. ²²حَمَلْتَنِي، أَرْكَبْنِي الرِّيحَ وَدَوَّبْتَنِي
تَشْوَهَا. ²³لَأَنِّي أَعْلَمُ أَنَّكَ إِلَى الْمَوْتِ تُعِيدُنِي، وَإِلَى بَيْتِ
مِيعَادٍ كُلِّ حَيٍّ. ²⁴وَلَكِنْ فِي الْخَرَابِ أَلَا يَمُدُّ يَدًا. فِي
الْبَيْتَةِ أَلَا يَسْتَعِثُّ عَلَيْهَا. ²⁵أَلَمْ أَلِكْ لِمَنْ عَسَرَ يَوْمُهُ. أَلَمْ
تَكْتِيبْ نَفْسِي عَلَى الْمُسْكِينِ. ²⁶حِينَمَا تَرَجَّيْتُ الْخَيْرَ جَاءَ
السَّرُّ، وَاسْتَطَرْتُ التَّوْبَةَ فَجَاءَ الدُّجَى. ²⁷أَمْعَائِي تَغْلِي وَلَا
تَكْفُ. تَقْدَمْتَنِي أَيَّامُ الْمَدْلَةِ. ²⁸إِسْوَدَّتْ لَكِنْ يَلَا شَمْسٍ.
قُمْتُ فِي الْجَمَاعَةِ أَصْرُخُ. ²⁹صُرْتُ أَحَاً لِلدَّثَابِ وَصَاحِباً
لِللِّعَامِ. ³⁰إِسْوَدَّ جِلْدِي عَلَيَّ وَعِظَامِي اخْتَرَقَتْ مِنْ
الْحُمَى فِيَّ. ³¹صَارَ غُودِي لِلنَّوْحِ وَمِرْمَارِي لِمَصُوتِ
الْبَاكِينَ.

¹But now they that are younger than I have me in derision, whose fathers I would have disdained to have set with the dogs of my flock. ²Yea, whereto might the strength of their hands profit me, in whom old age was perished? ³For want and famine they were solitary; fleeing into the wilderness in former time desolate and waste. ⁴Who cut up mallows by the bushes, and juniper roots for their meat. ⁵They were driven forth from among men, (they cried after them as after a thief;) ⁶To dwell in the clifts of the valleys, in caves of the earth, and in the rocks. ⁷Among the bushes they brayed; under the nettles they were gathered together. ⁸They were children of fools, yea, children of base men: they were viler than the earth. ⁹And now am I their song, yea, I am their byword. ¹⁰They abhor me, they flee far from me, and spare not to spit in my face. ¹¹Because he hath loosed my cord, and afflicted me, they have also let loose the bridle before me. ¹²Upon my right hand rise the youth; they push away my feet, and they raise up against me the ways of their destruction. ¹³They mar my path, they set forward my calamity, they have no helper. ¹⁴They came upon me as a wide breaking in of waters: in the desolation they rolled themselves upon me. ¹⁵Terrors are turned upon me: they pursue my soul as the wind: and my welfare passeth away as a cloud. ¹⁶And now my soul is poured out upon me; the days of affliction have taken hold upon me. ¹⁷My bones are pierced in me in the night season: and my sinews take no rest. ¹⁸By the great force of my disease is my garment changed: it bindeth

me about as the collar of my coat.¹⁹ He hath cast me into the mire, and I am become like dust and ashes.²⁰ I cry unto thee, and thou dost not hear me: I stand up, and thou regardest me not.²¹ Thou art become cruel to me: with thy strong hand thou opposest thyself against me.²² Thou liftest me up to the wind; thou causest me to ride upon it, and dissolvest my substance.²³ For I know that thou wilt bring me to death, and to the house appointed for all living.²⁴ Howbeit he will not stretch out his hand to the grave, though they cry in his destruction.²⁵ Did not I weep for him that was in trouble? was not my soul grieved for the poor?²⁶ When I looked for good, then evil came unto me: and when I waited for light, there came darkness.²⁷ My bowels boiled, and rested not: the days of affliction prevented me.²⁸ I went mourning without the sun: I stood up, and I cried in the congregation.²⁹ I am a brother to dragons, and a companion to owls.³⁰ My skin is black upon me, and my bones are burned with heat.³¹ My harp also is turned to mourning, and my organ into the voice of them that weep.