

¹أَلَيْسَتْ حَيَاتُهُ الْإِنْسَانِ جِهَادًا عَلَى الْأَرْضِ، وَكَأَيَّامِ الْأَجِيرِ
 أَيَّامُهُ. ²كَمَا يَتَسَوَّقُ الْعَبْدُ إِلَى الطَّلِّ، وَكَمَا يَتَرَجَّى الْأَجِيرُ
 أَجْرَتَهُ، ³هَكَذَا تَعَيَّنَ لِي أَشْهُرُ سُوءٍ، وَلَيَالِي سَقَاءٍ قُسِمَتْ
 لِي. ⁴إِذَا اضْطَجَعْتُ أَقُولُ مَتَى أَقُومُ، اللَّيْلُ يَطُولُ وَأَسْبَغُ
 قَلَقًا حَتَّى الصُّبْحِ. ⁵لَيْسَ لِحِمِي الدَّوْدُ مَعَ الطَّيْنِ. جِلْدِي
 تَسْفَقُ وَيَقْشَحُ. ⁶أَيَّامِي أَسْرَعُ مِنَ الْمَكْوَكِ، وَتَنْتَهِي بِغَيْرِ
 رَجَاءٍ. ⁷أَذْكُرُ أَنَّ حَيَاتِي إِنَّمَا هِيَ رِيحٌ وَعَيْنِي لَا تَعُودُ تَرَى
 خَيْرًا. ⁸لَا تَرَانِي عَيْنِي تَاطِرِي. عَيْنَاكَ عَلَيَّ وَلَسْتُ
 أَتَا. ⁹السَّحَابُ يَصْمَجِلُ وَيَبْزُولُ. هَكَذَا الَّذِي يَنْزِلُ إِلَى
 الْهَوَايَةِ لَا يَصْعَدُ. ¹⁰لَا يَرْجِعُ بَعْدَ إِلَى بَيْتِهِ وَلَا يَعْرِفُهُ مَكَانُهُ
 بَعْدَ. ¹¹أَنَا أَيْضًا لَا أَمْتَعُ قِمِي. أَتَكَلِّمُ بِصِيْقِ رُوحِي. أَشْكُو
 بِمَرَارَةٍ نَفْسِي. ¹²أَبْخُرُ أَنَا أَمْ يَنْبُنُ حَتَّى جَعَلَتْ عَلَيَّ
 حَارِسًا. ¹³إِنْ قُلْتُ، فِرَاشِي يُعَرِّبُنِي، مَصْجَعِي يَنْزِعُ
 كُرْسِيَّ ¹⁴تُرِيغُنِي بِالْأَلَامِ وَتُرْهِبُنِي بِرُؤْيَى، ¹⁵فَاخْتَارْتُ
 نَفْسِي الْخَنَقَ وَالْمَوْتَ عَلَى عِطَامِي هَذِهِ. ¹⁶قَدْ دُبْتُ. لَا
 إِلَى الْأَبَدِ أَحْيَا. كُفَّ عَنِّي لِأَنَّ أَيَّامِي نَفَحَتْ. ¹⁷مَا هُوَ
 الْإِنْسَانُ حَتَّى تَعْتَبِرَهُ وَحَتَّى تَضَعَ عَلَيْهِ قَلْبَكَ، ¹⁸وَتَتَعَهَّدَهُ
 كُلَّ صَبَاحٍ، وَكُلَّ لَحْظَةٍ تَمْتَحِنُهُ. ¹⁹حَتَّى هَمَّتِي لَا تَلْتَفُتْ
 عَنِّي وَلَا تُرْخِصْنِي رَبِّمَا أَبْلَغُ رِيقِي. ²⁰أَأَخْطَأْتُ. مَاذَا أَفْعَلُ
 لَكَ يَا رَقِيبَ النَّاسِ. لِمَاذَا جَعَلْتَنِي هَذَفًا لَكَ حَتَّى أَكُونَ
 عَلَى نَفْسِي جَمَلًا. ²¹وَلِمَاذَا لَا تَغْفِرُ ذَنْبِي وَلَا تُزِيلُ إِثْمِي
 لَأَتِي الْآنَ اضْطَجِعُ فِي التُّرَابِ، تَطْلُبُنِي فَلَا أَكُونُ..

¹Is there not an appointed time to man upon earth? are not his days also like the days of an hireling? ²As a servant earnestly desireth the shadow, and as an hireling looketh for the reward of his work: ³So am I made to possess months of vanity, and wearisome nights are appointed to me. ⁴When I lie down, I say, When shall I arise, and the night be gone? and I am full of tossings to and fro unto the dawning of the day. ⁵My flesh is clothed with worms and clods of dust; my skin is broken, and become loathsome. ⁶My days are swifter than a weaver' shuttle, and are spent without hope. ⁷O remember that my life is wind: mine eye shall no more see good. ⁸The eye of him that hath seen me shall see me no more : thine eyes are upon me, and I am not. ⁹As the cloud is consumed and vanisheth away: so he that goeth down to the grave shall come up no more . ¹⁰He shall return no more to his house, neither shall his place know him any more. ¹¹Therefore I will not refrain my mouth; I will speak in the anguish of my spirit; I will complain in the bitterness of my soul. ¹²Am I a sea, or a whale, that thou settest a watch over me? ¹³When I say, My bed shall comfort me, my couch shall ease my complaint; ¹⁴Then thou scarest me with dreams, and terrifiest me through visions: ¹⁵So that my soul chooseth strangling, and death rather than my life. ¹⁶I loathe it ; I would not live alway: let me alone; for my days are vanity. ¹⁷What is man, that thou shouldest magnify him? and that thou shouldest set thine heart upon him? ¹⁸And that thou shouldest visit

him every morning, and try him every moment?¹⁹ How long wilt thou not depart from me, nor let me alone till I swallow down my spittle?²⁰ I have sinned; what shall I do unto thee, O thou preserver of men? why hast thou set me as a mark against thee, so that I am a burden to myself?²¹ And why dost thou not pardon my transgression, and take away mine iniquity? for now shall I sleep in the dust; and thou shalt seek me in the morning, but I shall not be .