

¹قَالَ أَيُّوبُ، ²صَحِيحٌ. قَدْ عَلِمْتُ أَنَّهُ كَذَا. فَكَيْفَ يَبْتَرُّ
الْإِنْسَانُ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ. ³إِنْ شَاءَ أَنْ يُجَاجَهُ لَا يُجِيبُهُ عَنْ وَاحِدٍ
مِنْ أَلْفٍ. ⁴هُوَ حَكِيمُ الْقَلْبِ وَشَدِيدُ الْقُوَّةِ. مَنْ تَصَلَّبَ
عَلَيْهِ فَسَلِمَ. ⁵الْمَرْخُزُخُ الْجِبَالِ وَلَا تَعْلَمُ، الَّذِي يَقْلِبُهَا فِي
عَصِيهِ، ⁶الْمُرْعَرُغُ الْأَرْضِ مِنْ مَقَرِّهَا فَتَرْتَلَزِلُ
أَعْمَدَتُهَا، ⁷الْأَمْرُ الشَّمْسِ فَلَا تُسْرِقُ وَيَخْنِمُ عَلَى
النُّجُومِ. ⁸الْبَاسِطُ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَخَذَهُ وَالْمَائِشِي عَلَى أَعَالِي
الْبَحْرِ. ⁹صَانِعُ النَّعْشِ وَالْجَبَّارِ وَالتُّرْبَا وَمَخَادِعِ
الْجُنُوبِ. ¹⁰قَاعِلُ عَطَائِمَ لَا تُفْحَصُ وَعَجَائِبَ لَا تُعَدُّ. ¹¹هُوَ ذَا
يَمُرُّ عَلَيَّ وَلَا أَرَاهُ، وَبَجَائِرُ فَلَا أَشْعُرُ بِهِ. ¹²إِذَا خَطَفَ فَمَنْ
يَرُدُّهُ، وَمَنْ يَقُولُ لَهُ، مَاذَا تَفْعَلُ. ¹³اللَّهُ لَا يَرُدُّ عَصِيَتَهُ.
يَتَخَبَّى تَحْتَهُ أَغْوَانُ رَهَبٍ. ¹⁴كَمْ بِالْأَقْلِ أَنَا أَجَاوِبُهُ وَأَخْتَارُ
كَلَامِي مَعَهُ. ¹⁵لَأَنِّي وَإِنْ تَبَرَّرْتُ لَا أَجَابُ، بَلْ أَسْتَرْجِمُ
دَبَابِي. ¹⁶لَوْ دَعَوْتُ فَاسْتَجَابَ لِي لِمَا آمَنْتُ بِأَنَّهُ سَمِعَ
صَوْتِي. ¹⁷ذَلِكَ الَّذِي يَسْحَقُنِي بِالْعَاصِفَةِ وَيَكْثُرُ جُرُوحِي
يَلَا سَبَبَ. ¹⁸لَا يَدْعُنِي أَحَدٌ تَقْسِي، وَلَكِنْ يُشْبِعُنِي
مَرَاتِرَ. ¹⁹إِنْ كَانَ مِنْ جِهَةِ قُوَّةِ الْقَوِيِّ يَقُولُ، هَتَدَا. وَإِنْ
كَانَ مِنْ جِهَةِ الْقَضَاءِ يَقُولُ، مَنْ يُحَاكِمُنِي. ²⁰إِنْ تَبَرَّرْتُ
يَحْكُمُ عَلَيَّ قِمِي. وَإِنْ كُنْتُ كَامِلًا يَسْتَدْرِيْنِي. ²¹كَامِلٌ أَنَا.
لَا أَبَالِي بِنَفْسِي. رَدَلْتُ حَيَاتِي. ²²هِيَ وَاحِدَةٌ. لِذَلِكَ قُلْتُ
إِنَّ الْكَامِلَ وَالسَّرِيرَ هُوَ يُفْنِيهِمَا. ²³إِذَا قُتِلَ السَّوْطُ بَعَثَهُ
يَسْتَهْزِئُ بِتَجْرِئَةِ الْأَبْرَاءِ. ²⁴الْأَرْضُ مُسَلَّمَةٌ لِيَدِ السَّرِيرِ.
يُعْشَى وَجُوهُ قُضَاتِهَا. وَإِنْ لَمْ يَكُنْ هُوَ، فَإِذَا مِنْ. ²⁵أَبَايِي
أَسْرَعُ مِنْ عَدَائِي، تَفَرُّ وَلَا تَرَى خَيْرًا. ²⁶تَمُرُّ مَعَ سُفْنِ
الْبَرْدِيِّ. كَتَسْرِ يَنْقَضُ إِلَى صُدَيْهِ. ²⁷إِنْ قُلْتُ، أَنْسَى
كُرْبَتِي. أَطْلِقُ وَجْهِي وَأَتَسِيمُ أَخَافُ مِنْ كُلِّ أَوْجَاعِي
غَالِمًا أَتَكُّ لَا تُبَرِّئُنِي. ²⁸أَنَا مُسْتَدْرَبٌ، فَلِمَاذَا أُنْعَبُ
عَبَسًا. ²⁹لَوْ اعْتَسَلْتُ فِي التَّلَجِّ وَطَطَفْتُ يَدَيَّ
بِالْأَسْتَانِ، ³⁰قَائِلًا فِي النَّفْعِ تَعْمِسُنِي حَتَّى تَكْزِهَنِي
ثِيَابِي. ³¹لَأَنَّهُ لَيْسَ هُوَ إِنْسَانًا مِثْلِي فَأَجَابُهُ فَتَأْنِي جَمِيعًا
إِلَى الْمُحَاكَمَةِ. ³²لَيْسَ بَيْنَنَا مُضَالِحٌ يَصْعُ بَدَهُ عَلَى
كَلْبِنَا. ³³لَيَرْفَعَنَّ عَنِّي عَصَاهُ وَلَا يَبْعَثَنِي رُغْبَهُ. ³⁴إِذَا أَتَكَلَّمْتُ وَلَا
أَخَافُهُ. لَأَنِّي لَسْتُ هَكَذَا عِنْدَ نَفْسِي.

¹Then Job answered and said, ²I know it is so of a truth: but how should man be just with God? ³If he will contend with him, he cannot answer him one of a thousand. ⁴He is wise in heart, and mighty in strength: who hath hardened himself against him, and hath prospered? ⁵Which removeth the mountains, and they know not: which overturneth them in his anger. ⁶Which shaketh the earth out of her place, and the pillars thereof tremble. ⁷Which commandeth the sun, and it riseth not; and sealeth up the stars. ⁸Which alone spreadeth out the heavens, and treadeth upon the waves of the sea. ⁹Which maketh Arcturus, Orion, and Pleiades, and the chambers of the south. ¹⁰Which doeth great things past finding out; yea, and wonders without number. ¹¹Lo, he goeth by me, and I see him not: he passeth on also, but I perceive him not. ¹²Behold, he taketh away, who can hinder him? who will say unto him, What doest thou? ¹³If God will not withdraw his anger, the proud helpers do stoop under him. ¹⁴How much less shall I answer him, and choose out my words to reason with him? ¹⁵Whom, though I were righteous, yet would I not answer, but I would make supplication to my judge. ¹⁶If I had called, and he had answered me; yet would I not believe that he had hearkened unto my voice. ¹⁷For he breaketh me with a tempest, and multiplieth my wounds without cause. ¹⁸He will not suffer me to take my breath, but filleth me with bitterness. ¹⁹If I speak of strength, lo, he is strong: and if of judgment, who shall set me a time to plead? ²⁰If I justify myself,

mine own mouth shall condemn me: if I say , I am perfect, it shall also prove me perverse.²¹ Though I were perfect, yet would I not know my soul: I would despise my life.²² This is one thing , therefore I said it , He destroyeth the perfect and the wicked.²³ If the scourge slay suddenly, he will laugh at the trial of the innocent.²⁴ The earth is given into the hand of the wicked: he covereth the faces of the judges thereof; if not, where, and who is he?²⁵ Now my days are swifter than a post: they flee away, they see no good.²⁶ They are passed away as the swift ships: as the eagle that hasteth to the prey.²⁷ If I say, I will forget my complaint, I will leave off my heaviness, and comfort myself :²⁸ I am afraid of all my sorrows, I know that thou wilt not hold me innocent.²⁹ If I be wicked, why then labour I in vain?³⁰ If I wash myself with snow water, and make my hands never so clean;³¹ Yet shalt thou plunge me in the ditch, and mine own clothes shall abhor me.³² For he is not a man, as I am, that I should answer him, and we should come together in judgment.³³ Neither is there any daysman betwixt us, that might lay his hand upon us both.³⁴ Let him take his rod away from me, and let not his fear terrify me:³⁵ Then would I speak, and not fear him; but it is not so with me.