

¹بَا ابْنِي، إِنْ صَمَمْتَ صَاحِبَكَ، إِنْ صَقَقْتَ كَفَكَ
لِعَرِيبٍ،² إِنْ عَلِفْتَ فِي كَلَامِ قِمِكَ، إِنْ أَخَذْتَ يَكَلَامَ
فِيكَ.³ إِذَا قَا فَعَلْ هَذَا بَا ابْنِي وَتَجَّ نَفْسَكَ إِذَا صَرْتَ فِي يَدِ
صَاحِبِكَ، اذْهَبْ تَرَامَ وَأَلِجْ عَلَى صَاحِبِكَ.⁴ لَا تُعْطِ عَيْنَيْكَ
تَوْماً وَلَا أَجْفَانِكَ نُعَاساً.⁵ تَجَّ نَفْسَكَ كَالطَّيِّبِ مِنَ الْيَدِ،
كَالْعُصْفُورِ مِنْ يَدِ الصَّيَّادِ.⁶ اذْهَبْ إِلَى الثَّمَلَةِ أَبْهَا
الْكَسْلَانِ. تَأْمَلْ طَرِيقَهَا وَكُنْ حَكِيماً.⁷ الَّتِي لَيْسَ لَهَا قَائِدٌ
أَوْ عَرِيفٌ أَوْ مُتَسَلِّطٌ،⁸ وَتُعَدُّ فِي الصَّيْفِ طَعَامَهَا وَتَجْمَعُ
فِي الْحَصَادِ أَكْلَهَا.⁹ إِلَى مَتَى تَتَأَمَّ أَبْهَا الْكَسْلَانِ. مَتَى
تَنْهَضُ مِنْ تَوْمِكَ.¹⁰ قَلِيلُ يَوْمٍ، بَعْدُ قَلِيلُ نُعَاسٍ، وَطَيُّ
الْبَدَنِ قَلِيلٌ لِلرُّفُودِ،¹¹ قِيَّابِي فَقَرُكَ كَسَاعٍ وَعَوَزُكَ
كَعَازٍ.¹² الرَّجُلُ اللَّيِّمُ، الرَّجُلُ الْإِيْمُ يَسْعَى بِأَعْوَجَاجِ
الْقَمِ.¹³ يَغْمُرُ بَعْيَيْهِ. يَقُولُ بِرَجْلِهِ. يُنْشِرُ بِأَصَابِعِهِ.¹⁴ فِي
قَلْبِهِ أَكَاذِيبٌ. يَخْتَرِعُ الشَّرَّ فِي كُلِّ حِينٍ. يَزْرَعُ
خُصُومَاتٍ.¹⁵ لِأَجْلِ ذَلِكَ بَعَثَ ثِقَاجَهُ بَلِيَّةً. فِي لَحْطِهِ
يَنْكَبِرُ وَلَا شِفَاءً.¹⁶ هَذِهِ السَّنَةُ يُعْضِثُهَا الرَّبُّ، وَسَبْعَةُ هِيَ
مَكْرَهُهُ نَفْسِهِ،¹⁷ عُيُونُ مُتَعَالِيَةٍ، لِسَانُ كَاذِبٍ، أَيْدٍ سَافِكَةٍ
دَمًا بَرِيئًا،¹⁸ قَلْبٌ يُنْشِئُ أَفْكَارًا رَدِيئَةً، أَرْجُلٌ سَرِيعَةٌ
الْجَرَائِ إِلَى الشُّوءِ،¹⁹ شَاهِدُ زُورٍ يَقُودُهُ بِالْأَكَاذِيبِ، وَزَارِعُ
خُصُومَاتٍ بَيْنَ إِخْوَةٍ.²⁰ بَا ابْنِي، احْقِطْ وَصَابًا أَيْدِيكَ وَلَا
تَتْرُكْ سَرِيعَةً أَمَّاكَ.²¹ أَرْطُطْهَا عَلَى قَلْبِكَ دَائِمًا. قَلَدْ يَهَا
عُثْقَكَ.²² إِذَا دَهَبَتْ تَهْدِيكَ. إِذَا نَمَتْ تَحْرُسُكَ، وَإِذَا
اسْتَقْبَطَتْ فَهِيَ تُحَدِّثُكَ.²³ لِأَنَّ الْوَصِيَّةَ مِصْبَاحٌ وَالسَّرِيعَةَ
نُورٌ، وَتَوْبِيخَاتُ الْأَدَبِ طَرِيقُ الْحَيَاةِ.²⁴ لِيَحْفَظَكَ مِنَ
الْمَرْأَةِ السَّرَّيرَةِ، مِنْ مَلَقِ لِسَانِ الْأَجْنِبَةِ.²⁵ لَا تَسْتَهَيِّنَ
حَمَالَهَا بِقَلْبِكَ، وَلَا تَأْخُذْ بِهَدْيِهَا. لِأَنَّهُ يَسَبِّبُ امْرَأَةً
رَآيِيَةً يَفْتَقِرُ الْمَرْءُ إِلَى رَعِيفِ حُبْنٍ، وَامْرَأَةٌ رَجُلٌ آخَرُ
تَقْتَبِصُ النَّفْسَ الْكَرِيمَةَ.²⁷ أَبَاخُذُ إِنْسَانٍ تَاراً فِي جَنْبِهِ
وَلَا تَحْتَرِقُ نِيَابَتُهُ.²⁸ أَوْ يَمْشِي إِنْسَانٌ عَلَى الْجَمْرِ وَلَا
تَكْتَوِي رِجْلَاهُ. هَكَذَا مَنْ يَدْخُلُ عَلَى امْرَأَةٍ صَاحِبِهِ. كُلُّ
مَنْ يَمَسُّهَا لَا يَكُونُ بَرِيئاً.³⁰ لَا يَسْتَحْفَوْنَ بِالسَّارِقِ وَلَوْ
سَرَقَ لِيُسَبِّحَ نَفْسَهُ وَهُوَ جَوْعَانٌ.³¹ إِنْ وَجَدَ يَرُدُّ سَعَةً
أَصْعَافٍ، وَتُعْطِي كُلَّ قَتْبَةٍ بَيْتَهُ.³² أَمَّا الرَّآيِي بِامْرَأَةٍ
فَعَدِيمُ الْعَقْلِ. الْمُهْلِكُ نَفْسَهُ هُوَ يَفْعَلُهُ.³³ صَرْبًا وَخَرْبًا
يَجِدُ، وَغَارُهُ لَا يُمَحَى.³⁴ لِأَنَّ الْغَيْبَةَ هِيَ حِمْمَةُ الرَّجُلِ، فَلَا
يُسْفِكُ فِي يَوْمِ الْإِنْتِقَامِ.³⁵ لَا يَنْطُرُ إِلَى فِدْيَةٍ مَا، وَلَا
يَرْضَى وَلَوْ أَكْثَرَتِ الرِّشْوَةُ.

¹My son, if thou be surety for thy friend, if thou hast stricken thy hand with a stranger,² Thou art snared with the words of thy mouth, thou art taken with the words of thy mouth.³ Do this now, my son, and deliver thyself, when thou art come into the hand of thy friend; go, humble thyself, and make sure thy friend.⁴ Give not sleep to thine eyes, nor slumber to thine eyelids.⁵ Deliver thyself as a roe from the hand of the hunter, and as a bird from the hand of the fowler.⁶ Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise:⁷ Which having no guide, overseer, or ruler,⁸ Provideth her meat in the summer, and gathereth her food in the harvest.⁹ How long wilt thou sleep, O sluggard? when wilt thou arise out of thy sleep?¹⁰ Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep:¹¹ So shall thy poverty come as one that travelleth, and thy want as an armed man.¹² A naughty person, a wicked man, walketh with a froward mouth.¹³ He winketh with his eyes, he speaketh with his feet, he teacheth with his fingers;¹⁴ Frowardness is in his heart, he deviseth mischief continually; he soweth discord.¹⁵ Therefore shall his calamity come suddenly; suddenly shall he be broken without remedy.¹⁶ These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him:¹⁷ A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood,¹⁸ An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief,¹⁹ A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.²⁰ My

son, keep thy father's commandment, and forsake not the law of thy mother:²¹ Bind them continually upon thine heart, and tie them about thy neck.²² When thou goest, it shall lead thee; when thou sleepest, it shall keep thee; and when thou awakest, it shall talk with thee.²³ For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light; and reproofs of instruction are the way of life.²⁴ To keep thee from the evil woman, from the flattery of the tongue of a strange woman.²⁵ Lust not after her beauty in thine heart; neither let her take thee with her eyelids.²⁶ For by means of a whorish woman a man is brought to a piece of bread: and the adulteress will hunt for the precious life.²⁷ Can a man take fire in his bosom, and his clothes not be burned?²⁸ Can one go upon hot coals, and his feet not be burned?²⁹ So he that goeth in to his neighbour's wife; whosoever toucheth her shall not be innocent.³⁰ Men do not despise a thief, if he steal to satisfy his soul when he is hungry;³¹ But if he be found, he shall restore sevenfold; he shall give all the substance of his house.³² But whoso committeth adultery with a woman lacketh understanding: he that doeth it destroyeth his own soul.³³ A wound and dishonour shall he get; and his reproach shall not be wiped away.³⁴ For jealousy is the rage of a man: therefore he will not spare in the day of vengeance.³⁵ He will not regard any ransom; neither will he rest content, though thou givest many gifts.