

¹ يَا ابْنِي، اخْطُ كَلَامِي وَادْخُرْ وَصَايَايَ عِنْدَكَ.² اخْطُ وَصَايَايَ فَتَحْيَا، وَسَرِيعَتِي كَحَدَقَةِ عَيْنِكَ.³ اُرْبُطْهَا عَلَى أَصَابِعِكَ. اكْتُبْهَا عَلَى لَوْحٍ قَلْبِكَ.⁴ قُلْ لِلْحِكْمَةِ، أَنْتِ أُخْتِي وَادْعُ الْفَهْمَ دَا قَرَابَةٍ.⁵ لَتَحْفَظَكَ مِنَ الْمَرْأَةِ الْأَجْنِبِيَّةِ، مِنَ الْعَرَبِيَّةِ الْمَلِيقَةِ بِكَلَامِهَا.⁶ لَأَنِّي مِنْ كُودَةٍ بَيْتِي، مِنْ وَرَاءِ شُبَّاكِي تَطْلُعُ، قَرَأْتُ بَيْنَ الْجُهَالِ، لَأَخْطُ بَيْنَ الْبَيْنِ غُلَاماً عَدِيمَ الْفَهْمِ، غَايِراً فِي الشَّارِعِ عِنْدَ رَاوِيَتِهَا، وَصَاعِداً فِي طَرِيقِ بَيْتِهَا.⁸ فِي الْعِشَاءِ، فِي مَسَاءِ الْيَوْمِ، فِي حَدَقَةِ اللَّيْلِ وَالظَّلَامِ.¹⁰ وَإِذَا بِامْرَأَةٍ اسْتَقْبَلْتُهُ فِي رِيٍّ رَائِيَةً، وَخَبِيئَةَ الْقَلْبِ.¹¹ صَحَابَتُ هِيَ وَجَامِحَةٌ. فِي بَيْتِهَا لَا تَسْقُطُ قَدَمَاهَا. تَارَةً فِي الْخَارِجِ وَآخَرَى فِي الشُّوَارِعِ. وَعِنْدَ كُلِّ رَاوِيَةٍ تَكْمُنُ.¹³ قَامَسَكْتُهُ وَقَبَّلْتُهُ. أَوْقَعْتُ وَجْهَهَا وَقَالَتْ لَهُ،¹⁴ عَلَيَّ ذَبَائِحُ السَّلَامَةِ. الْيَوْمَ أَوْقَيْتُ نُدُورِي.¹⁵ فَلِذَلِكَ خَرَجْتُ لِلْقَائِكَ لِأَطْلُبَ وَجْهَكَ حَتَّى أَجِدَكَ.¹⁶ بِالذِّيْبَاجِ قَرَسْتُ سَرِيرِي، بِمُوسَى كَتَّانٍ مِنْ مِصْرَ.¹⁷ عَطَرْتُ فِرَاشِي بِمُرٍّ وَغُودٍ وَفَرْقَةٍ.¹⁸ هَلُمَّ تَرْتَوِ وُجْداً إِلَى الصَّبَاحِ. تَتَلَدَّدُ بِالْحُبِّ.¹⁹ لَأَنَّ الرَّجُلَ لَيْسَ فِي الْبَيْتِ. ذَهَبَ فِي طَرِيقِ بَعِيدَةٍ.²⁰ أَخَذَ صُرَّةَ الْفِضَّةِ بِيَدِهِ. يَوْمَ الْهَلَالِ يَأْتِي إِلَى بَيْتِي.²¹ أَعُوذُ بِكَرَّتِهِ فُنُونِهَا، بِمَلِثِ سَفَقَتِهَا طَوْحَنُهُ.²² ذَهَبَ وَرَاءَهَا لَوْفَتِهِ كَنُورٍ يَذْهَبُ إِلَى الذَّبَّاحِ، أَوْ كَالْعَيْيِّ إِلَى قَيْدِ الْفِضَاصِ،²³ حَتَّى يَشُقَّ سَهْمُ كِبْدَةٍ. كَطَائِرٍ يُسْرِعُ إِلَى الْقَحِّ وَلَا يَذَرِي أَنَّهُ لِنَفْسِهِ.²⁴ وَالْآنَ أَتَيْهَا الْأَبْنَاءُ اسْمَعُوا لِي وَأَضْعُوا لِكَلِمَاتِ قَمِي. لَا يَمِلُ قَلْبُكَ إِلَى طُرُقِهَا، وَلَا تَسْرُدُ فِي مَسَالِكِهَا.²⁶ لَأَنَّهَا طَرَحَتْ كَثِيرِينَ جَرَحَى، وَكُلَّ قَتَلَاها أَفْوِيَاءً.²⁷ طُرُقُ الْهَافِيَةِ بَيْتِهَا، هَابِطَةٌ إِلَى خُذُورِ الْمَوْتِ.

¹My son, keep my words, and lay up my commandments with thee.²Keep my commandments, and live; and my law as the apple of thine eye.³Bind them upon thy fingers, write them upon the table of thine heart.⁴Say unto wisdom, Thou art my sister; and call understanding thy kinswoman:⁵That they may keep thee from the strange woman, from the stranger which flattereth with her words.⁶For at the window of my house I looked through my casement,⁷And beheld among the simple ones, I discerned among the youths, a young man void of understanding,⁸Passing through the street near her corner; and he went the way to her house,⁹In the twilight, in the evening, in the black and dark night:¹⁰And, behold, there met him a woman with the attire of an harlot, and subtil of heart.¹¹(She is loud and stubborn; her feet abide not in her house:¹²Now is she without, now in the streets, and lieth in wait at every corner.)¹³So she caught him, and kissed him, and with an impudent face said unto him,¹⁴I have peace offerings with me; this day have I payed my vows.¹⁵Therefore came I forth to meet thee, diligently to seek thy face, and I have found thee.¹⁶I have decked my bed with coverings of tapestry, with carved works, with fine linen of Egypt.¹⁷I have perfumed my bed with myrrh, aloes, and cinnamon.¹⁸Come, let us take our fill of love until the morning: let us solace ourselves with loves.¹⁹For the goodman is not at home, he is gone a long journey: He hath taken a bag of money with him, and will come home at the day

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appointed.²¹ With her much fair speech she caused him to yield, with the flattering of her lips she forced him.²² He goeth after her straightway, as an ox goeth to the slaughter, or as a fool to the correction of the stocks;²³ Till a dart strike through his liver; as a bird hasteth to the snare, and knoweth not that it is for his life.²⁴ Hearken unto me now therefore, O ye children, and attend to the words of my mouth.²⁵ Let not thine heart decline to her ways, go not astray in her paths.²⁶ For she hath cast down many wounded: yea, many strong men have been slain by her.²⁷ Her house is the way to hell, going down to the chambers of death.